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SPECIAL FEATURE

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MAYWEATHER REMAINS FORMIDABLE AND AS VOLATILE AS EVER ENTERING 2013

ULTIMATE JOURNEYMAN

U.K.'S BILLY "GYPSY BOY" SMITH IS 13-128-2 BUT CONTINUES TO BATTLE

MORE GOODBYES

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MEXICAN SLUGGER RETURNS TO BOXING AFTER A DIFFICULT YEAR

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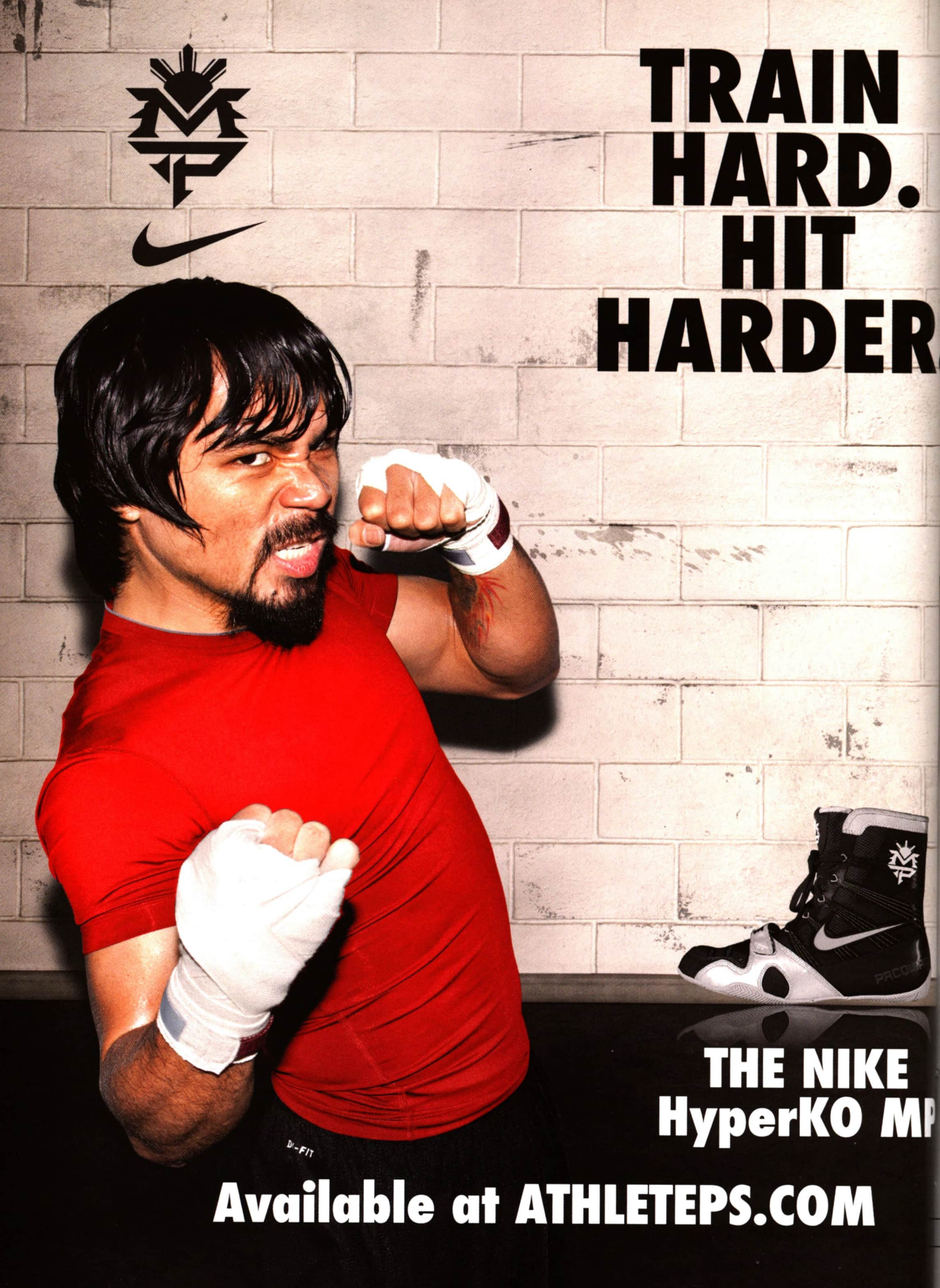
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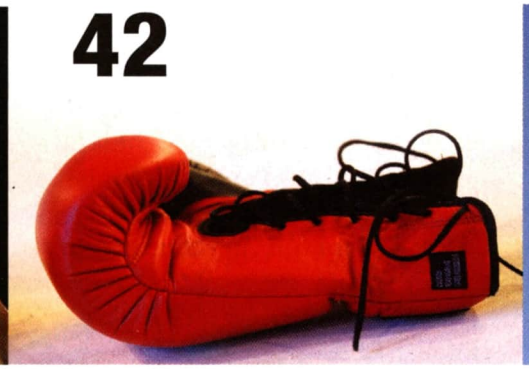

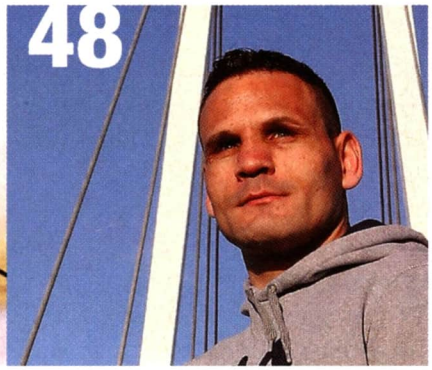

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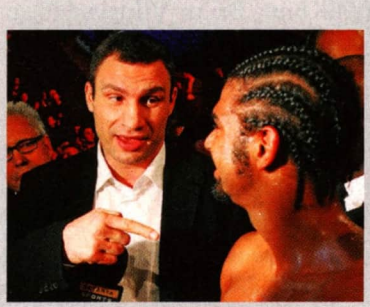

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VILORIA WINS A THRILLER
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REASON FOR OPTIMISM

By: **Michael Rosenthal**

I've wondered whether the health of boxing would deteriorate after aging superstars Manny Pacquiao and Floyd Mayweather Jr. fade and ultimately leave the scene.

The sport is driven by its biggest figures, particularly in the pay-per-view business. Mike Tyson and then Oscar De La Hoya and then Mayweather and Pacquiao have been able to generate seven-figure buy rates fairly consistently over the past 20 years.

Can anyone on the horizon reach that rarified air post-Mayweather and Pacquiao? Not sure.

Still, I'm very optimistic going into the new year.

One reason was one entertaining fight after another in 2012. Orlando Salido-Juan Manuel Lopez II, Brandon Rios-Mike Alvarado, Daniel Geale-Felix Sturm, Danny Garcia-Amir Khan, Brian Viloria-Hernan Marquez, Robert Guerrero-Andre Berto ... the list goes on and on.

Was it better matchmaking? TV executives demanding more-competitive fights? Luck? Whatever it was, keep doing it.

And then there are the young fighters poised to replace Mayweather and Pacquiao as kings of the sport.

Adrien Broner might be the most-complete package, a gifted boxer with an attractive style who also is compelling outside the ring. Can he become a seven-figure man? We'll see.

Saul "Canelo" Alvarez has a thrilling, take-no-prisoners style, good looks and the backing of an important fan base. He, too, could post big pay-per-view numbers if he continues to win and entertain.

Gennady Golovkin is the closest thing to Thomas Hearns in this generation, a sharpshooter with the power to end any fight in an instant. Fans are going to love him.

The knockout percentage of Mikey Garcia, the brother of trainer Robert Garcia, rivals Golovkin's. Enough said.

Andre Ward is the most accomplished of this lot, a complete fighter whose combination of unusual talent and toughness makes him next to impossible to beat. I wonder about his entertainment value but he is winning over fans.

Nonito Donaire is in Broner's class in terms of natural gifts and has accomplished more than the Cincinnatian. He's a joy to watch, which more and more fans – not just Filipino fans – are beginning to realize.

Abner Mares, another complete fighter, doesn't know how to be in a boring fight.

Robert Guerrero just manhandled Andre Berto, another step in a remarkable run from 122 pounds to 147.

Across the pond, David Price and Tyson Fury give us hope that there will be life in the heavyweight division after the Klitschko stranglehold finally comes to an end.

And there's Danny Garcia, Yuriorkis Gamboa, Carl Froch, Timothy Bradley, Lucas Matthysse, Leo Santa Cruz, Ricky Burns, James Kirkland, Kell Brook ... again, the list of exciting young fighters could go on and on.

How could I not be optimistic? 2013 is going to be fun.

The RING

VOLUME 92, NO. 2 | FEBRUARY 2013

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(1888-1972)

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215-643-3087 OR ONLINE AT RINGTV.COM

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Los Angeles CA, 90025

THE RING (ISSN: 0035-5410), Vol. 92, NO. 2 (February 2013), is published monthly by Sports and Entertainment Publications, LLC, 510 Township Line Rd., Suite 130, Blue bell, PA 19422. Periodicals postage paid at Blue Bell, PA 19422 and additional post offices. Postmasters: Send change of address notices to: THE RING, P.O. Box 433122, Palm Coast, FL 32164-3122. Single copy price $8.95 in U.S. and Canada (£4.95 in the UK). Subscription price $78.70 in the U.S., $127.10 in Canada and Mexico, $143.70 in remaining countries. Not responsible for the loss or non-return of unsolicited articles or photographs, which will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed envelope bearing the proper amount of postage. The entire contents of this magazine are copyright ©2012 Sports and Entertainment Publications, LLC. No part of this magazine may be reproduced without the written permission of the publisher. All rights reserved. Publisher is not responsible for the accuracy of the content of advertisements appearing in this magazine, nor the delivery or quality of merchandise or services offered. No endorsement of any such advertisement is intended or implied. Advertisers and agencies assume liability for claims arising from the content of their advertisements. FOR ADVERTISING INQUIRES AND RATES: (213) 233-2952. U.S. and Canadian distribution by Kable Distribution Services Inc., 14 Wall Street, Suite 4C, New York, NY 10022. International distribution by Worldwide Media Service Inc., 115 East 23rd St., New York, NY 10010, UK distribution by Comag Tavistock Rd., West Drayton, Middlesex UB77QE, England. **Printed in U.S.A.**

Everyone felt Ricky Hatton's pain after his comeback was ended by a single body shot from Vyacheslav Senchenko on Nov. 24 before his adoring fans in Manchester, England. That includes referee Victor Loughlin. *Image: Chris Brunskill-Getty*

Adrien Broner found his target often in his impressive eight-round demolition of tough, but overmatched Antonio DeMarco on Nov. 17 in Atlantic City, N.J.
Image: Naoki Fukuda

GOOD, NOT GREAT

I really don't like bashing boxers, especially RING champions, but somebody must set the record straight about RING Magazine heavyweight champion Wladimir Klitschko. I realize that Dr. Steelhammer hasn't lost since 2004, but what current or future hall-of-fame fighter has he beaten? Sure he dominated a lot of B-level opposition. And the late, great Emanuel Steward (RIP) worked out the kinks and refined his often-boring robotic style. But when he fought guys with decent punching power, they either hurt Wlad or knocked him out. Remember that Corrie Sanders and Lamon Brewster stopped him. Even undersized and pudgy Sam Peter floored Wladimir three times. I'm sorry, but beating the likes of Chris Byrd, Calvin Brock, Tony Thompson, Eddie Chambers and David Haye doesn't even put him in the same breath as the heavyweight legends you guys compared him to (December 2012 issue). He might have defeated speedy Floyd Patterson but that's about it. I know the heavyweight division is awful. That's not Klitschko's fault, but that's the way it stands.

Stephen Donatelli
Verona, Pa.

LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON?

I have read frequently about parallels between Julio Cesar Chavez Jr.'s fight against Sergio Martinez and his father's first fight against Meldrick Taylor, most recently in Anson Wainwright's RING 100 rankings (January 2013 issue). Chavez Sr. lost rounds against Taylor but his body attack wore Taylor down and made him vulnerable in the 12th round. Chavez Jr.'s main accomplishment against Martinez was surviving for 11 rounds and having enough left to land one good punch. Martinez deserved to win this fight. His determination and endurance after being knocked down were remarkable. Chavez Sr. should not have beaten Taylor. I have no argument with a referee stopping a fight to protect a helpless fighter, which Taylor was. However, if you watch the video, you will see that after he knocked Taylor down, Chavez went to a neutral corner but immediately left it. If referee Richard Steele had properly stopped the count and sent Chavez back to a neutral corner, the bell would have sounded before he counted eight, the fight would have been over and Taylor would have won as he deserved to do.

Leslie Gerber
Woodstock, N.Y.

RIP

Hector Camacho was a great little fighter. When he was in his prime, in the 135-pound weight class, he would present a lot of problems for any fighter he faced. Extremely fast hands, a southpaw and good movement with his legs were the keys. He was not a one-punch knockout artist, but if he caught you with a big shot, he would come after you. And if he hurt you, you were in trouble. He sat many fighters down on the canvas. I assume he had no male figure in his life to tell him to leave the coke alone. It will kill you directly or indirectly. However, when it came to boxing, Hector played for keeps. I remember when he fought Oscar De La Hoya in 1997. De La Hoya was on his way up and Camacho was on his way down. Oscar was beating up on Hector pretty bad, and Hector's corner told him that they were going to stop it. Nobody in the arena would have complained. Camacho told his corner, "You all ain't stopping s--t." He took his ass-whipping like a man. Rest in peace, Macho. We are going to miss you.

Barry Abbott
Takoma Park, Md.

ONLY ONE RICKY HATTON

I was devastated watching a shadow of Ricky Hatton get KO'd by Vyacheslav Senchenko (on Nov. 24). I spent what feels like a lifetime defending him against people who called him an "overrated, one-dimensional slugger," and it felt afterward like the critics had just been handed more ammunition. But then I thought: Who cares? People will remember whatever they want to remember. I'll remember him overcoming the odds to beat one of the best 140-pounders ever in Kostya Tszyu to win the title, defending it in a unification fight against awkward Carlos Maussa, becoming a two-weight champion against Luis Collazo, beating undefeated titleholder Juan Urango, stopping Jose Luis Castillo with a vicious body shot, taking thousands of fans to Las Vegas in a valiant losing effort to Floyd Mayweather Jr., packing the City of Manchester Stadium against Juan Lazcano, and dominating the next best guy in the division in Paulie Malignaggi before coming up short against a prime Manny Pacquiao. That's what I'm going to remember. If other people don't, I'm OK with that.

Callum Fairbrother
Sheffield, England

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Image: Naoki Fukuda

Danny Garcia got a lot accomplished in 2012 — including his knockout of Erik Morales (right) in their rematch — but his defining fight could come in 2013.

WE'LL LEARN MORE ABOUT GARCIA IN 2013

By: **David Greisman**

This is apparently all that it takes these days for a boxer to have a great year: go the distance with a former champion who is out of shape and past his prime, knock out an opponent who is coming off a loss and has a questionable chin, and then demolish the same tubby and aging veteran from earlier in a rematch.

That was Danny Garcia's 2012. But that isn't the way it should be remembered.

Examining a fighter's record can be like staring at your favorite actress on a high definition television — look too close and for too long, and blemishes begin to appear where beauty had once seemed natural. It's a trick of the mind, a trick we shouldn't fall for when describing Garcia's accomplishments.

On the surface, Garcia had a notable year, winning his first world title by defeating the legendary Erik Morales, unifying two junior-welterweight belts with a stunning, stellar stoppage of Amir Khan, and then capping off his run with an emphatic highlight-reel knockout in a return engagement with Morales.

Upon closer scrutiny, the skeptic would remind you that Morales was old and overweight in the first Garcia fight, that Khan had just been defeated by Lamont Peterson and had a poor reputation when it came to taking heavy shots, and that the way the second Garcia-Morales bout concluded proved just how done Morales had been to begin with.

The truth is somewhere in between.

Garcia has gone, in the span of five fights, from prospect to contender to the top name at 140 pounds; THE RING recognizes Garcia as the division's champion. Two years ago, his best win had come against a faded Mike Arnaoutis. Twelve months ago, his biggest victories were over an old Nate Campbell and the inconsistent Kendall Holt. Forget the revisionist historians who can minimize any boxer's record; it was a good year for Garcia.

He needs his 2013 to build on 2012 the same way 2012 built on 2011.

There are some who will criticize Garcia's planned fight with Zab Judah. But it makes business sense to put a Philadelphian in against a Brooklynite who still has name recognition, and to hold their bout in New York City. Yet what Golden Boy Promotions really must do is resist the urge to keep its budding star away from the looming spoiler, Lucas Matthysse. The way to make that pairing worthwhile isn't to minimize Matthysse's marketability, but rather to sell him to fans as the dangerous destroyer he is.

Forget the temptation to scrutinize and minimize Garcia's victories. He won when he needed to and how he needed to in the Khan fight and Morales rematch. So long as he continues to do the same, those actions will speak for themselves. Starting 2013 with a Judah fight is acceptable. Ending it with the Matthysse match would be exceptional.

.....

The hindsight of revisionist history can be both legitimate and accurate. That's the case with the promotional effort behind the Garcia-Morales card in Brooklyn. On the surface, Golden Boy went all out for the first boxing event at the brand new Barclays Center, stacking the evening's offerings with four title fights, and appealing to the audience with six boxers from the Big Apple and one more from its suburbs.

But fewer than 10,000 people bought tickets for a fight card with all of that — and that fight card took place in a city that consistently packs Madison Square Garden for Miguel Cotto, a city that has millions within its boundaries and millions more within driving distance.

That's no surprise given how little incentive there is for promoters to actually promote, not when they receive so much money from networks, venues and sponsors, leaving little need to invest in anything beyond going through the motions of press conferences and a modicum of media-friendly events.

The same can be said, sadly, for the more noteworthy fighters, who can receive six- and seven-figure paychecks no matter how entertaining they are or are not, no matter how little they go out in the community and build a fan base. (In contrast, those appearing in preliminary bouts often have contingents of fans there specifically to support them.) This is why we have supposed "stars" earning more than $1 million to be on HBO while fighting in front of fewer than 1,000 people in their home state.

It's not sustainable to burn whomever is bankrolling you. It wasn't good when Top Rank aired putrid cards on Versus (now the NBC Sports Network). It's not good that up to 1,000 tickets were given away in the days before Golden Boy Promotions' card at Barclays Center.

All of these entities were in exclusive deals, which are prone to turning out bad for business. If the network or the venue does not get its money's worth, it will be less likely to stay involved in the Sweet Science in the future. And so long as promoters are participating in their namesake activity less and less, they will need to be subsidized more and more.

If fighters and promoters don't actively participate in growing the sport, then there is a danger that those who subsidize it presently will no longer find doing so to be worthwhile in the future. If that happens, then boxing might just take a bigger hit outside of the ring than those dished out in it. ■

Paulie Malignaggi (right, against Pablo Cesar Cano) was one of seven boxers from the New York area who fought on the Oct. 20 card at the new Barclays Center in Brooklyn.
Image: Naoki Fukuda

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STEPPINGSTONES TO GREATNESS

Muhammad Ali and Larry Holmes will be joined forever as sparring partners, ring adversaries, and great champions. The tie between Tunney Hunsaker and Rodell Dupree is more tenuous.

Hunsaker was the opponent when Cassius Marcellus Clay Jr. made his pro debut at Freedom Hall in Louisville, Ky., on Oct. 29, 1960. Tunney was big, white and slow; a part-time fighter whose primary job was serving as police chief in Fayetteville, W. Va. Clay won a six-round decision.

Decades later, Hunsaker looked back on that moment in time and declared, "I'm honored to have been the first person Muhammad Ali fought in his professional career. It was an honor for me to have been in the ring with him, a real honor."

But Hunsaker's own life after that historic encounter was hard. In his final fight, a 1962 bout against 3-4-1 Joe "Shotgun" Sheldon, he was knocked out in the 10th round and suffered a subdural hematoma. After nine days in a coma, he recovered and was able to resume his duties as police

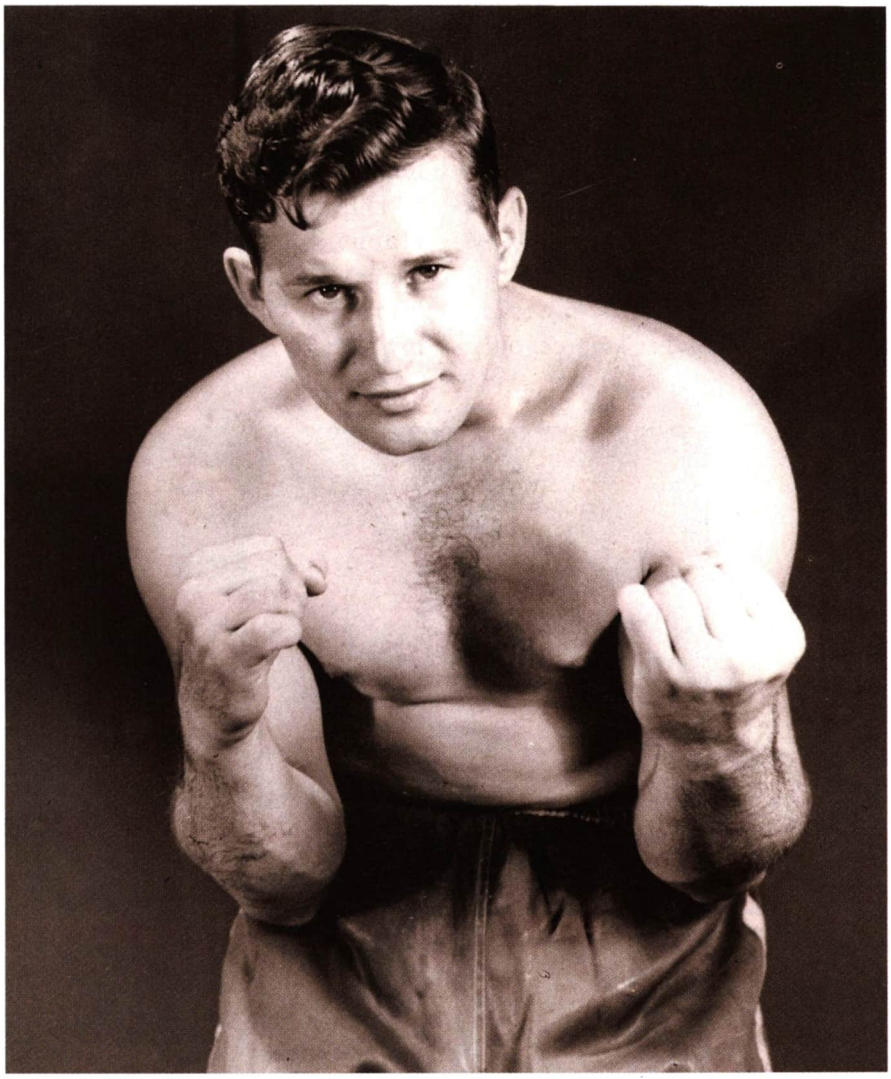


Image: THE RING

Tunney Hunsaker, the first professional opponent of Muhammad Ali (Cassius Clay at the time), had a difficult life after that historic meeting.

QUICK QUIZ

1. A YOUNG MAN NAMED HENRY JACKSON FOUGHT PROFESSIONALLY IN 1931. THEN HE CHANGED HIS NAME SO HE COULD RETURN TO THE AMATEUR RANKS AND FIGHT SURREPTITIOUSLY IN THE 1932 OLYMPIC TRIALS. WHAT WAS HIS NEW NAME?

2. WHAT WAS BOXING'S FIRST "MILLION-DOLLAR GATE"?

3. WHAT WAS THE FIRST PROFESSIONAL FIGHT THAT SYLVESTER STALLONE EVER ATTENDED?

chief. He died at 75 on April 25, 2005, in an extended-care facility after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease.

Hunsaker knew that he was fighting an Olympic gold medalist. Rodell Dupree had no clue of what he was in for.

On March 21, 1973, Dupree's uncle Jimmy Dupree battled to a 10-round draw against Bobby Cassidy in the main event at the Catholic Youth Center in Scranton, Pa. The younger Dupree, only 2-2 at the time, fought on the undercard against Holmes, who was making his pro debut.

Holmes won a four-round decision. His purse was $100. Manager-trainer Earnie Butler took a third and also deducted the $3 boxing license fee. Larry went home with $63.

"Dupree came at me smoking," Holmes later recalled. "I had to use my jab and footwork to keep him away. I was worried about my stamina. While I was fighting him, a phrase kept going through my mind: 'Come on, body, don't fail me now.'"

Dupree now lives in Jersey City, N.J. "We was both coming up and trying to get to the same place," he said. "Holmes got there; I didn't. It was a good fight, a rough fight. He deserved the decision. I have no regrets about it. I wish I'd been able to fight him again. But to be honest with you, I couldn't beat the man he became."

Wayne McCullough, left, was almost as adept in goal as he was in the ring. *Image: Ethan Miller-Getty*

GREATEST MOMENT IN SPORTS ... OUTSIDE OF BOXING

WAYNE McCULLOUGH

"I was 8 years old, and they used me as goalkeeper for the 11-year-old football [soccer] team at Spring Hill Primary School in Belfast [Northern Ireland]. We played 20 or 30 games against other schools. Playing with bigger, older boys the entire season was a thrill for me.

"We won more than we lost. And there were games where I saved us from losing. I had quick reflexes and could jump like a monkey. I could catch and take the impact of the ball when it hit me. Football is a team game, but I loved the one-on-one challenge within the game. When you're the goalkeeper and the ball comes toward the goal, you're on your own.

"My dream was to play goalkeeper at a higher level, but I didn't grow big enough. In high school, I was a defender. Then I gave football up to concentrate on boxing."

WRITERS AREN'T EXPERTS ON GUTS

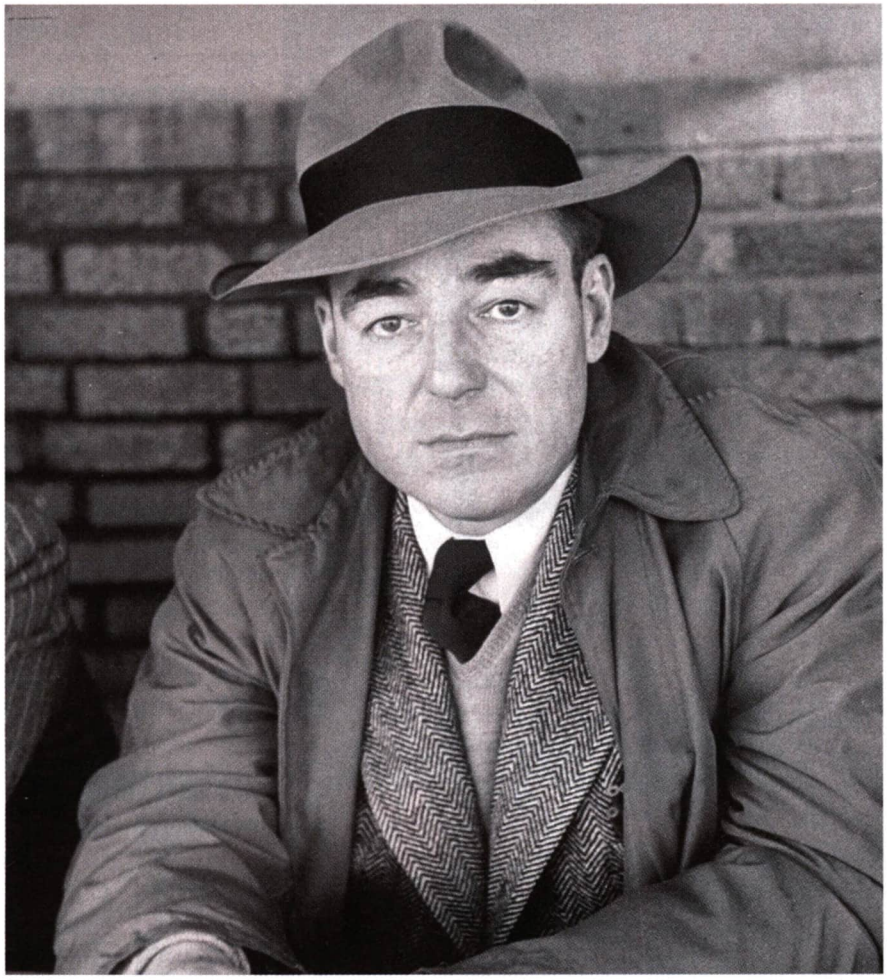


Image: Time Life-Getty

Hall-of-fame boxing writer Jimmy Cannon said boxing writers "are cruel judges of human behavior when we settled down to play our pieces on the typewriter."

Jimmy Cannon, the hall-of-fame boxing writer, died in 1973 at the much-too-young age of 64. It was Cannon who labeled boxing "the red-light district of professional sports" and characterized Joe Louis as "a credit to his race, the human race."

Cannon also opined, "If Howard Cosell were a sport, he'd be roller derby." But some of his harshest words were reserved for fellow boxing writers.

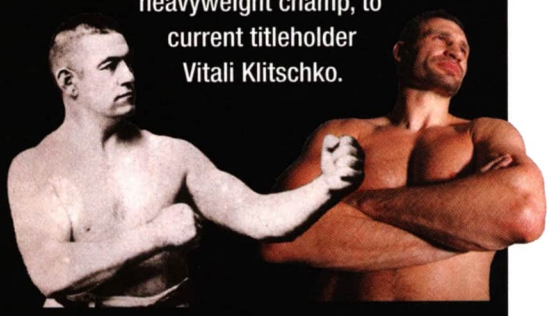
"The reporter who covers games immediately appoints himself an authority on courage," Cannon wrote. "No other group in the newspaper business is as severe in its judgments of a man's behavior as we are. We demand that the athlete be perfect in competition and proceed on the theory that he should be exempt from fear. We denounce a young man because he was not brave according to the standards we have established for his sport. We can be timid and frightened in our personal lives. We move down the bar when a guy gets stormy. We cross the street or walk in the gutter when a man approaches us late at night, and our excuse is that he may be a stickup guy. But we are cruel judges of human behavior when we settle down to play our pieces on the typewriter."

QUIZ ANSWERS: **1. HENRY ARMSTRONG; 2. ON JULY 2, 1921, JACK DEMPSEY KNOCKED OUT GEORGE CARPENTIER IN FRONT OF 80,183 FANS IN JERSEY CITY, N.J. THE GATE RECEIPTS WERE $1,789,238. DEMPSEY ALSO GENERATED MILLION-DOLLAR GATES AGAINST LUIS FIRPO, JACK SHARKEY AND GENE TUNNEY (TWICE); 3. STALLONE, AN OUT-OF-WORK ACTOR, WAS INSPIRED TO WRITE ROCKY AFTER WATCHING A CLOSED-CIRCUIT TELECAST OF THE 1974 FIGHT BETWEEN MUHAMMAD ALI AND CHUCK WEPNER. THE FIRST FIGHT HE ACTUALLY ATTENDED WAS THE JUNE 9, 1978 CHAMPIONSHIP BOUT BETWEEN KEN NORTON AND LARRY HOLMES.**

Thomas Hauser can be reached by email at thauser@rcn.com. His most recent book — *And the New ...: An Inside Look at Another Year in Boxing* was published by the University of Arkansas Press.

ADVANCED DEGREES

Degrees of separation between fighters of today and their predecessors. This month: John L. Sullivan, the first modern heavyweight champ, to current titleholder Vitali Klitschko.



Sullivan fought Jim Corbett, who fought …

Jim Jeffries, who fought …

Jack Johnson, who fought …

Jess Willard, who fought …

Jack Dempsey, who fought …

Jack Sharkey, who fought …

Joe Louis, who fought …

Rocky Marciano, who fought …

Archie Moore, who fought …

Muhammad Ali, who fought …

Larry Holmes, who fought …

Mike Tyson, who fought …

Lennox Lewis, who fought …

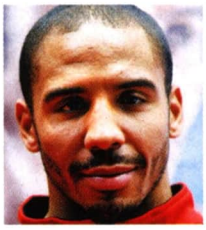
▼

KLITSCHKO

FIGHTERS' FAVORITES

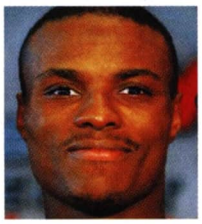
WHAT BOXERS ARE INTO OUTSIDE THE SPORT

>>> ANDRE WARD



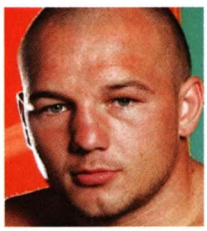
MUSIC: Gospel, gospel rap, and contemporary gospel rock. I like to listen to music that makes me feel good, pumps me up, and inspires me.
CAR: I own a Cadillac Escalade, Ford F150, and my baby, a Porsche Panamera. These are some of the fruits of my labor.
FOOD: I love Italian and soul food – when I'm not training, of course.
TATTOOS: I have several tattoos, which I'm not proud of. My father told me to not get any tattoos, and if I did, not to get them on my forearms. What did I do? I got them on my forearms. This is why in a business setting, you will very rarely, if ever, see me in a short-sleeve shirt.
ATHLETE (OUTSIDE BOXING): I admire many athletes outside of boxing. I tend to gravitate toward the athletes that are good at what they do, carry themselves with class outside of their profession and that are business-conscious. It's not just about what we do as athletes within our profession, but also what we do with what we've earned over the years.
MOVIE: *Facing The Giants.* Awesome movie!
VIDEO GAME: I'm not much of a gamer, but I love to play *Madden* with my kids.

>>> PETER QUILLIN



MUSIC: '70s-'80s R&B like Atlantic Starr, Bobby Womack, the Temptations, Delfonics and also some salsa and hip-hop.
CAR: I have a 2011 Mustang, but I want the new Porsche Panamera or this year's Corvette because it's the last year with that body frame.
FOOD: Yuca y congrí (cassava with red beans and rice). It's a Cuban dish, and my dad cooks it a lot.
TATTOOS: I have a soaring eagle to symbolize glory through pain, a smiley face on my left arm to remind me to be happy with what I have, a shield with a Cuban flag on my right shoulder, my mom's name on the left side of my neck, my brother's on my outer left forearm, a pair of boxing gloves hanging from a cross with a crown of thorns that reads "King of Kings" on the inside of my right arm, and a bonsai tree on my left calf.
ATHLETE (OUTSIDE BOXING): Kevin Durant. I like how he reaches out to his fans on Twitter.
MOVIE: *Fight Club.*
VIDEO GAME: *Fight Night Champion.*

>>> GAVIN REES



MUSIC: House music
CAR: I drive an Audi TT, so I suppose I better say that.
FOOD: Chinese
TATTOOS: None at all.
ATHLETE (OUTSIDE BOXING): It would have to be a footballer, Lionel Messi or Cristiano Ronaldo
MOVIE: *The Rocky* films
VIDEO GAME: *Fifa 13*

Images: Getty

GOOD, BAD, WORSE

THE BEST AND WORST IN BOXING FROM THE PAST MONTH

By: **Michael Rosenthal**

GOOD

Boxer Hamid Rahimi was the star of an unusual peace initiative in his war-torn homeland of Afghanistan. Rahimi, now a resident of Germany, stopped Said Mbelwa of Tanzania before 1,500 adoring fans Oct. 30 in Kabul, reportedly the first professional bout in the nation. The Taliban, which ruled Afghanistan for five years, outlawed boxing – labeling it "un-Islamic" – before allowing a version that forbade punches to the face. Rahimi and other organizers hoped the "Fight 4 Peace" promotion would help unify the country. "It aims to show (people) how to fight and still love each other," Attah Mohammad Yousufzai, a supporter of Rahimi, told Reuters. Said Rahimi, who won a minor title: "Today it's a start. This belt is not mine, this belt is Afghanistan's, it's yours. I love you."

BAD

Ricky Hatton's return to the ring could be classified here as good, depending on how you look at it. I'll never forget the sadness on his face as he held back tears after he was stopped by Vyacheslav Senchenko on Nov. 24 in his hometown of Manchester. Hatton, who hadn't fought in 3½ years, had worked hard to overcome his demons and get back into fighting shape. He didn't want to end his career with a brutal knockout loss to Manny Pacquiao; he wanted a proper ending. Instead, a perfectly placed body shot by Senchenko did him in. The good? I'll also never forget the moment Hatton's fans began to sing "There's Only One Ricky Hatton …" after the fight ended, demonstrating that their love for him was unconditional. How many fighters connect in such a manner with their countrymen? He's a lucky man.

WORSE

How much money has Evander Holyfield made in his career? A few hundred million dollars? I'm always amazed that anyone could squander that much cash, as Holyfield apparently has done. Julien's Auctions was scheduled to sell many of the former heavyweight king's belongings on Nov. 30, the result of bankruptcy. He had already lost his Atlanta mansion, which went into foreclosure. Holyfield sued Julien's about a month before the auction to save some items he contends were never meant to be sold. However, he was set to lose the majority of precious boxing memorabilia he collected over his career. That includes the gloves he wore in the ear-biting fight against Mike Tyson and numerous robes and trunks, according to The Associated Press. Sad.

10 A MONTHLY BOXING LIST

THIS MONTH: Fighters who ended their careers undefeated.

1. **ROCKY MARCIANO:** 49-0
2. **JOE CALZAGHE:** 46-0
3. **SAMSON DUTCH BOY GYM:** 43-0
4. **SVEN OTTKE:** 34-0
5. **MICHAEL LOEWE:** 28-0
6. **EDWIN VALERO:** 27-0
7. **GEORGE KANDELAKI:** 24-0
8. **PICHIT SITBANGPRACHAN:** 24-0
9. **SCOTT DALEY:** 24-0
10. **JEMAL HINTON:** 22-0

Five more: *Ike Ibeabuchi 20-0, Kirk Daley 19-0, Jimmy Barry 59-0-10, Ricardo Lopez 51-0-1, Edson Pedro Nascimento 47-0-1.*

Note: *Floyd Mayweather Jr., 35, is 43-0.*

Source: boxrec.com

RING POLL

A MONTHLY POLL OF OUR RINGTV.COM READERS.

A number of young fighters have generated a great deal of excitement in recent months. And they figure to continue their ascent in 2013. Who will take the biggest step in his career? Here's this month's poll question and your responses: **Which of these rising stars will make the biggest impact in 2013?**

THE PERCENTAGES:

Donaire	32.0
Broner	18.6
Alvarez	18.2
Ward	7.8
Golovkin	7.8
Guerrero	5.8
Price	2.9
Rios	2.6
Fury	1.3
Mares	1.1
Burns	1.0
Bradley	0.9

NOTE: *10,382 readers voted in the poll.*

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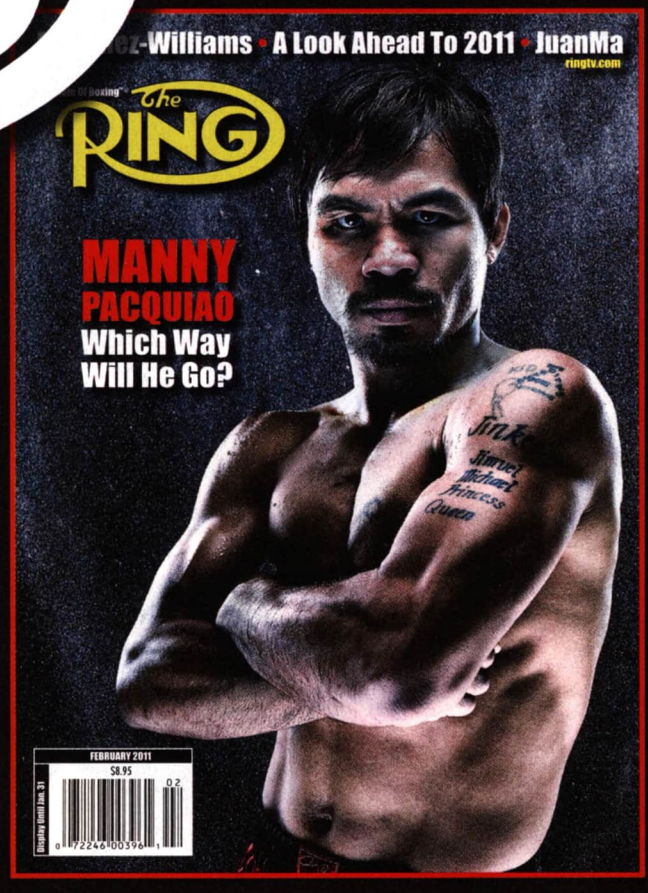

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Image: AFP-Getty

Chris Byrd said Vitali Klitschko (right) and brother Wladimir are the best all-around fighters he ever faced.

CHRIS BYRD

By: **Lem Satterfield**

Chris Byrd can claim something that only he and four others can: I beat a Klitschko.

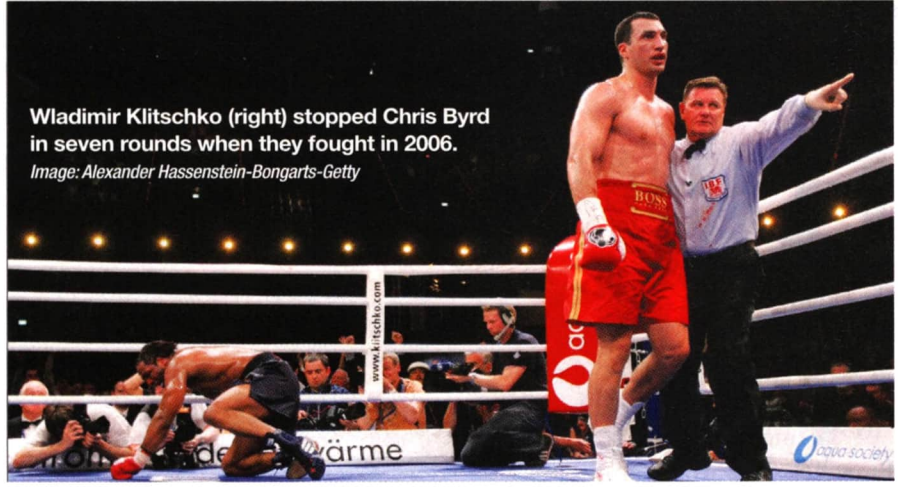
Byrd pulled it off in 2000 when he defeated Vitali Klitschko, who retired after the ninth round due to a torn rotator cuff.

Wladimir twice exacted revenge for his brother, once on the cards and once by stoppage, but Byrd (41-5-1, 22 knockouts) was more than just a foil for the Klitschkos. The slick southpaw was an outstanding amateur, winning a silver medal as a middleweight in the 1992 Olympics.

And even though he was a small heavyweight as a pro, he won two major titles. He took Vitali Klitschko's WBO belt and outpointed Evander Holyfield to win the vacant IBF title in 2002.

Byrd also had victories over heavyweight contenders Fres Oquendo, David Tua and Jameel McCline, among several others, in a solid career. He last fought in 2009.

Byrd revealed to THE RING the best he has faced in 10 key categories.



Wladimir Klitschko (right) stopped Chris Byrd in seven rounds when they fought in 2006.
Image: Alexander Hassenstein-Bongarts-Getty

BEST OVERALL:
VITALI AND WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO

When I fought Wladimir the first time, he was a pursuer. He pursued the knock out. Give Emanuel Steward credit, though, because the second time, he had him standing up more. His height and reach are already the hardest thing to match, and then you add his Olympic gold medal, his power, and his abundance of amateur experience. Overall, when you look at dominance, the dude has been a champion for a long time.

Was he better than Vitali? No. Vitali has a lot of heart and he's smart. But he got a lot smarter later. So I would go with them being even. If people complain, and they say, 'well, you beat him, and he quit against you,' I truly chalk it up to his injury. I could say that I was making him miss because he was swinging for the fences, but I tell you one thing, dude could fight. So I would go with both the Klitschkos.

BEST CHIN:
DAVID TUA

I wasn't a guy who would get in there and trade with guys as far as going toe-to-toe. People said that I couldn't punch. But going into it, I knew that David Tua had one of the best heavyweight chins, maybe among the best all-time.

BEST JAB:
WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO

I took pride on taking somebody's jab away, so I rarely got hit with jabs. But I would have to say that's probably Wladimir Klitschko.

BEST PUNCHER:
DaVARRYL WILLIAMSON

The one I feared the most as far as punching power was DaVarryl Williamson. Oh my goodness. I'm telling you, people look at DaVarryl, and his chin may not be that great, and his style doesn't look that good, but ask all the guys. He knocked Hasim Rahman out in sparring. I mean, he rocked his world. I know that for a fact. He rocked my world. He stung me and everybody he's sparred. When they call him by his nickname, 'The touch of sleep,' that's exactly what his punch is.

BEST BOXER:
MAURICE HARRIS

I worried about pure boxing, so I'd have to go with Mo Harris. I worried about his boxing ability more than I did with any other fighter. He had good footwork, he had hand speed, and he had a great right hand. He can out-maneuver and out-box you and he had good lateral movement.

BEST DEFENSE:
WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO

Man, that's a hard one, but I would have to go with Wladimir. He was hard to get to because of his height, and his long arms, and his ability to hold me off with his strength and his power. He's a big heavyweight who is hard to hit. Ask David Haye.

FASTEST FEET:
FRES OQUENDO

I would go with Fres Oquendo. He was a smaller heavyweight. When I fought Fres, I was the aggressor, going on the prowl. He was fast enough that he was getting away and he was smart. He would tie me up, and he would get out.

FASTEST HANDS:
HARRIS

He just had good, quick, fast combinations. When I would try to throw a combination, he would come right back. He was able to keep me honest at times with how quick his jab was. Then, he would try to run combinations off. I was blessed enough to where I had good movement that worked to negate his hand speed, but I could tell how fast he was.

SMARTEST:
EVANDER HOLYFIELD

Evander Holyfield was the smartest, by far. As he was putting pressure on me, he had a way of making the ring smaller. I'm really good in the ring at being smart, knowing where I am and keeping the distance. I can usually get out of certain things. But he seemed to find a way, every time, to put me in corners. He was taking these steps both ways, and it was almost like he was squaring up. I was like, "this is weird."

STRONGEST:
JAMEEL McCLINE

Jameel McCline. He's an ox. I don't know if he'll get the credit, but he punches extremely hard. And as far as his strength, I just couldn't move him when he put me on the ropes.

FLURRY OF FAREWELLS

By: **Brian Harty**

While the final curtain closed on three extraordinary boxing figures (see obituaries for **Emanuel Steward, Carmen Basilio** and **Hector Camacho Sr.** elsewhere in this issue), several others reached the end of an act. Bantamweight **Eric Morel** (46-4, 23 knockouts) and strawweight/junior flyweight Ivan Calderon (35-3-1, 6 KOs), both Olympians and former world titleholders, retired to follow other paths in the sport. Thailand's **Pongsaklek Wonjongkam** (87-5-2, 46 KOs) also called it a day. He was among THE RING's Top 10 flyweights for a staggering 607 consecutive weeks, many of them as champion, and had a winning streak longer than most careers: 56 fights. Also, **Toshiaki Nishioka,** last seen battling **Nonito Donaire** for the RING junior featherweight championship on Oct. 13, retired after 18 years and a record of 39-5-3 (24 KOs). Speaking at a press conference about ending his career on the loss to Donaire, Nishioka said, "I cannot think of any better fight than the one I had with him."

Image: Scott Heavey-Getty

Ricky Hatton was one of several prominent boxers to retire in the past month.

For **Ricky Hatton,** the decision was a bit more difficult to come by. In an interview with BBC Radio Five Live a month before his fight against **Vyacheslav Senchenko** on Nov. 24, the beloved Brit said he felt such intense shame after losing to **Floyd Mayweather Jr.** and **Manny Pacquiao** that he literally had a knife to his wrist on several occasions. Hatton said the well-wishes of his countrymen had no effect on his depression and that the need to "redeem" himself was the primary reason for his comeback. Following the ninth-round knockout loss to Senchenko in his hometown of Manchester, England, Hatton said he'd seen enough to finally admit, "It's the end of Ricky Hatton." ...

In the days leading up to the rematch with **Danny Garcia** on Oct. 20, word began to circulate that **Erik Morales'** blood tests had shown "irregularities." In fact, both Morales' "A" and "B" samples, taken a week apart and tested by the United States Anti-Doping Association (USADA), came back positive for clenbuterol. Garcia's camp threatened to pull out, and since the past year had taught everyone the formula – positive A + positive B = positive drug test – the assumption was that the fight was off. However, Morales calmly assured the press that USADA had called him directly to say "everything is OK," and sure enough, a third sample ("C"?) came back negative and the fight was on. How to explain? To use Morales' answer: Contamination. ...

In Ukraine, **Vitali Klitschko** led his fledgling Ukrainian Democratic Alliance for Reform political party (the initials of which, UDAR, spell "punch") to 14 percent of the national vote and 40 seats in Parliament. UDAR's pro-European platform opposes current president **Viktor Yanukovych,** who Klitschko says

Amir Khan (left) wrankled some in the boxing world by suggesting that former trainer Freddie Roach has slipped because of his Parkinson's disease.
Image: Alberto E. Rodriguez-Getty

is selling the country out for closer ties to Russia, and the WBC heavyweight titleholder has been a frequent front-line participant at anti-government protests. ...

Meanwhile, Vitali and brother **Wladimir** sold the broadcast rights to five future fights involving either of them to German network **RTL** for 15 million Euros. ...

Speaking at Penn State University, former hunting ground of now-incarcerated football coach Jerry Sandusky, Hall of Famer **Sugar Ray Leonard** announced his intention to assume a leadership role in the fight against child sex abuse. Declaring himself the "the poster child" for other survivors, Leonard said the decision came after decades of shame over his own experience as a young boxer molested by his coach, and that he hopes his openness will encourage others to step forward. ...

Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. announced that his father would no longer be part of his camp, saying the constant distractions caused by **JCC Sr.**'s attempts to control his training were in large part to blame for his performance against **Sergio Martinez** in September. ...

Former junior welterweight titleholder **Amir Khan** said his split from longtime trainer **Freddie Roach** was due in some part to the lack of personal attention at the overcrowded Wild Card Boxing Club, and also to Roach's Parkinson's disease, which he said had progressed to the point of being detrimental. Upon hearing of those comments, former Wild Card denizen **Robert Guerrero** told Boxingscene.com, "that's straight being a scumbag." ...

Evander Holyfield, who celebrated his 50th birthday at **Julien's Auctions Gallery** in October, filed suit against the Beverly Hills auction house in November to block the sale of some memorabilia items, including his 1984 Olympic bronze medal. Julien's, in turn, sued Holyfield's assistant, **Toi Irvin**, who was supposed to have gotten Evander's permission to auction off his stuff but allegedly failed to do so. ...

And finally, what did boxing do before Twitter? (Hard to imagine all the bubble baths and breakfast burritos that we'll just *never* know about.) Most of all, how did people insult each other? In the U.K., a tweet from a relative of super middleweight **Kenny Anderson**, suggesting that the wife of rival **George Groves** should "have a bath in bleach," stoked an already bitter feud between the two boxers. In another corner of the 'verse, a public break-up between **Floyd Mayweather Jr.** and rapper/promoter **50 Cent** turned into a dizzying maelstrom of thumb-tapped abuse culminating in a $20 million challenge to match Mayweather against junior lightweight **Yuriorkis Gamboa**. So yes, things got a little stupid. Unless you're **Billy Dib**, that is. Originally signed to fight for TMT Promotions, Dib found himself in a bind when Mayweather ("punk") and 50 ("male boxing groupie") ended their partnership and the latter formed his own company, **SMS Promotions**. Dib went with SMS, but 50 Cent's tweets and rumored efforts to separate Floyd from manager **Al Haymon** and **Golden Boy Promotions** may have cost the featherweight titleholder his date on the **Cotto-Trout** undercard (GBP co-promoted and Haymon manages Trout), which was pulled in early November just after the aforementioned "social networking." ■

MONICA MONROE

HEIGHT: 5-foot-7
WEIGHT: 110 pounds
MEASUREMENTS: 34-23-34
STANCE: Southpaw
FAVORITE BOXER: Muhammad Ali
HOMETOWN: Cleveland
CURRENT LOCATION: Cleveland
WHERE YOU'VE SEEN HER: Ultimate MMA Magazine February 2012; Southern Vixens Magazine October 2012
BOOKING INFO: www.monicamonroexo.com

Image: **Dave Alan**

MONICA MONROE

Image: **Dave Alan**

THE RING CARD GIRL OF THE MONTH BY: **HEATHER SHANHOLTZ**

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DO YOU WANT TO BE A RING CARD GIRL OF THE MONTH?

submit photos and bio to **ringcardgirl@sepublications.com**

Image: **Dave Alan**

Image: Tom Hogan-Hoganphotos

Adrien Broner's impressive knockout of Antonio DeMarco earned effusive praise in the boxing world.

FIGHTER OF THE MONTH:

ADRIEN BRONER

By: **Michael Rosenthal**

This wasn't an easy call. Abner Mares' unanimous-decision victory over Anselmo Moreno was impressive. Brian Viloria's knockout of Hernan Marquez was breathtaking. And Robert Guerrero's one-sided decision over Andre Berto enhanced his stature significantly.

Adrien Broner (25-0, 21 knockouts) made the biggest statement of the past month, though. The ridiculously gifted Cincinnatian made tough, experienced WBC lightweight titleholder Antonio DeMarco (28-3-1, 21 KOs) look like an amateur on Nov. 17, picking him apart until his corner was forced to save him from further embarrassment and a brutal beating.

OK, DeMarco's face-first style was made to order for Broner, who will always feed on relatively slow and marginally talented opponents who come to him. The Mexican's determination had taken him a long way, though. Most observers figured Broner would've at least had to work hard for his victory.

He didn't. He stood with his feet planted and shoulder rolled for defensive purposes and delivered one perfectly placed punch after another to bust up and demoralize a game but overmatched opponent.

Broner's performance wasn't thrilling, as a spirited brawl might be. It was more awesome, in the literal sense of the word. It was like a concert by a great virtuoso; you simply marvel at what you see or hear and know you have been witness to something rare.

Of course, no one knows how Broner will do when he takes the next step up in competition. For one night, though, he was truly remarkable. ■

POUND FOR POUND: Junior featherweight Abner Mares defeated Anselmo Moreno by a unanimous decision, thus claiming Moreno's No. 10 spot.

HEAVYWEIGHTS: No change.

CRUISERWEIGHTS: Longtime list resident Giacobbe Fragomeni (No. 7 last month) was dropped for lack of a quality win in recent years, and Dmytro Kucher of Ukraine moved in at No. 10. German southpaw Firat Arslan then debuted at No. 9 based on his strong showing in a close loss to No. 1 Marco Huck, pushing Kucher out and Rakhim Chakhiev to No. 10. Finally, after an impressive KO-win over Steve Herelius (unrated), Kucher returned to replace Chakhiev.

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS: Nathan Cleverly (No. 3 last month) stopped late-replacement Shawn Hawk (unrated), but he and Gabriel Campillo (No. 4 last month) switched positions based on the strength of Campillo's resume.

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS: No change.

MIDDLEWEIGHTS: Peter Quillin (No. 9 last month) scored several fights' worth of knockdowns in his unanimous-decision win over Hassan N'Dam (No. 7 at the time), but N'Dam won the majority of rounds and showed incredible toughness until the end. They swapped positions on the list.

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS: No change.

WELTERWEIGHTS: Randall Bailey (No. 7 last month) neglected to throw punches and lost a 12-round decision to Devon Alexander, thus falling from the list while Alexander entered at No. 10. Then Josesito Lopez was dropped to No. 10, pushing Alexander up. Ukrainian Vyacheslav Senchenko claimed the No. 10 spot following his ninth-round knockout of Ricky Hatton, and Lopez was bumped off. Finally, Robert Guerrero gave unrated Andre Berto a brutal "welcome back" party, mistreating him for 12 hard rounds to jump from No. 8 all the way to No. 3, just behind Manny Pacquiao and Floyd Mayweather Jr.

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS: Erik Morales (No. 6 last month) lost his rematch to division champion Danny Garcia and disappeared from the list. Pablo Cesar Cano was also dropped after his loss to Paulie Malignaggi at welterweight. The bottom two vacancies were filled by Joan Guzman and Cesar Cuenca, who entered at No. 9 and No. 10, respectively.

LIGHTWEIGHTS: Adrien Broner debuted at lightweight in a big way, stopping No. 1-rated Antonio DeMarco in eight rounds to take the top spot in the division. DeMarco slipped to No. 3.

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS: Takahiro Ao (No. 3 last month) fell to No. 10, lifting everyone below up a notch, after his upset loss to unrated Gamaliel Diaz, who arrived at No. 9. Bryan Vasquez (No. 10 last month) dropped out as a result.

FEATHERWEIGHTS: No change.

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS: Takalani Ndlovu (No. 6 last month) lost to unrated Alejandro Lopez and was dropped from the list, while Tomoki Kameda scored a fifth-round knockout over Javier Franco and entered at No. 9. Mares (No. 4 last month) moved up to replace Toshiaki Nishioka at No. 3, but Nishioka announced his retirement and thus exited the list. Victor Terrazas of Mexico entered at No. 10 but wasn't there for long, as undefeated Brit Scott Quigg scored an impressive win over Rendall Munroe to take the bottom spot.

BANTAMWEIGHTS: AJ Banal (No. 8 last month) was knocked out by prolific Thai fighter Pungluang Sor Singyu, who replaced him in the ratings. Shinsuke Yamanaka (No. 3 last month) and Joseph Agbeko (No. 2 last month) switched places following Yamanaka's win over tough Mexican Tomas Rojas. Eric Morel (No. 9 last month) retired, leaving space for Ryosuke Iwasa to enter at No. 10. And Leo Santa Cruz (No. 5 last month) moved up one notch with his eighth-round stoppage of Victor Zaleta, swapping places with No. 4 Koki Kameda.

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS: No change.

FLYWEIGHTS: The king of all list-veterans, Pongsaklek Wonjongkam, announced his retirement and relinquished his spot (No. 6 at the time) after 607 straight weeks. Froilan Saludar of the Philippines took up the slack at No. 10. After a sensational fight ending in a 10th-round stoppage for Brian Viloria (No. 2 last month), "The Hawaiian Punch" exchanged positions with his opponent, Hernan Marquez (No. 1 last month).

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS: Following more than a year outside the ring, Ulises Solis returned to the rankings at No. 4 following a seventh-round knockout of fellow Mexican Jesus Iribe (unrated).

STRAWWEIGHTS: No change.

Wladimir Klitschko had to go 12 rounds against Mariusz Wach but nearly shut out the Pole on the scorecards on Nov. 10 in Germany.
Image: John MacDougall-AFP-Getty

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HEAVYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT UNLIMITED

C **WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO**
Ukraine | 59-3-0 (50 KOs)

1. **VITALI KLITSCHKO**
Ukraine | 45-2-0 (41 KOs)
2. **ALEXANDER POVETKIN**
Russia | 25-0-0 (17 KOs)
3. **TOMASZ ADAMEK**
Poland | 47-2-0 (29 KOs)
4. **DAVID HAYE**
UK | 26-2-0 (24 KOs)
5. **KUBRAT PULEV**
Bulgaria | 17-0-0 (9 KOs)
6. **ROBERT HELENIUS**
Finland | 18-0-0 (11 KOs)
7. **DENIS BOYTSOV**
Russia | 31-0-0 (25 KOs)
8. **RUSLAN CHAGAEV**
Uzbekistan | 30-2-1 (19 KOs)
9. **CHRIS ARREOLA**
U.S. | 35-2-0 (30 KOs)
10. **TYSON FURY**
UK | 19-0-0 (14 KOs)

CRUISERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 200 LBS

C **YOAN PABLO HERNANDEZ**
Cuba | 27-1-0 (13 KOs)

1. **MARCO HUCK**
Germany | 35-2-1 (25 KOs)
2. **KRZYSZTOF WLODARCZYK**
Poland | 47-2-1 (33 KOs)
3. **OLA AFOLABI**
UK | 19-2-4 (9 KOs)
4. **DENIS LEBEDEV**
Russia | 24-1-0 (18 KOs)
5. **GUILLERMO JONES**
Panama | 38-3-2 (30 KOs)
6. **LATEEF KAYODE**
Nigeria | 18-0-1 (14 KOs)
7. **MATEUSZ MASTERNAK**
Poland | 28-0-0 (21 KOs)
8. **TROY ROSS**
Canada | 25-3-0 (16 KOs)
9. **FIRAT ARSLAN**
Germany | 32-6-2 (21 KOs)
10. **DMYTRO KUCHER**
Ukraine | 19-0-0 (15 KOs)

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 175 LBS

C **CHAD DAWSON**
U.S. | 31-2-0 (17 KOs)

1. **BERNARD HOPKINS**
U.S. | 52-6-2 (32 KOs)
2. **TAVORIS CLOUD**
U.S. | 24-0-0 (19 KOs)
3. **GABRIEL CAMPILLO**
Spain | 21-4-1 (8 KOs)
4. **NATHAN CLEVERLY**
UK | 25-0-0 (12 KOs)
5. **BEIBUT SHUMENOV**
Kazakhstan | 13-1-0 (8 KOs)
6. **KARO MURAT**
Germany | 25-1-1 (15 KOs)
7. **ISAAC CHILEMBA**
Malawi | 19-1-1 (9 KOs)
8. **MIKKEL KESSLER**
Denmark | 45-2-0 (34 KOs)
9. **JUERGEN BRAEHMER**
Germany | 38-2-0 (30 KOs)
10. **TONY BELLEW**
UK | 18-1-0 (12 KOs)

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 168 LBS

C **ANDRE WARD**
U.S. | 26-0-0 (14 KOs)

1. **CARL FROCH**
UK | 30-2-0 (22 KOs)
2. **LUCIAN BUTE**
Romania | 31-1-0 (24 KOs)
3. **THOMAS OOSTHUIZEN**
South Africa | 21-0-1 (13 KOs)
4. **ARTHUR ABRAHAM**
Armenia | 35-3-0 (27 KOs)
5. **ROBERT STIEGLITZ**
Russia | 42-3-0 (23 KOs)
6. **SAKIO BIKA**
Cameroon | 30-5-2 (21 KOs)
7. **GEORGE GROVES**
UK | 15-0-0 (12 KOs)
8. **ANDRE DIRRELL**
U.S. | 20-1-0 (14 KOs)
9. **ADONIS STEVENSON**
Canada | 19-1-0 (16 KOs)
10. **EDWIN RODRIGUEZ**
Dominican Rep. | 22-0-0 (15 KOs)

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 160 LBS

C **SERGIO MARTINEZ**
Argentina | 50-2-2 (28 KOs)

1. **DANIEL GEALE**
Australia | 28-1-0 (15 KOs)
2. **FELIX STURM**
Germany | 37-3-2 (16 KOs)
3. **GENNADY GOLOVKIN**
Kazakhstan | 24-0-0 (21 KOs)
4. **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ JR.**
Mexico | 46-1-1 (32 KOs)
5. **DMITRY PIROG**
Russia | 20-0-0 (15 KOs)
6. **MATTHEW MACKLIN**
UK | 29-4-0 (20 KOs)
7. **PETER QUILLIN**
U.S. | 28-0-0 (20 KOs)
8. **MARTIN MURRAY**
UK | 25-0-1 (10 KOs)
9. **HASSAN N'DAM**
France | 27-1-0 (17 KOs)
10. **GRZEGORZ PROKSA**
Poland | 28-2-0 (21 KOs)

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 154 LBS

C **VACANT**

1. **FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.**
U.S. | 43-0-0 (26 KOs)
2. **MIGUEL COTTO**
Puerto Rico | 37-3-0 (30 KOs)
3. **SAUL ALVAREZ**
Mexico | 41-0-1 (30 KOs)
4. **ERISLANDY LARA**
Cuba | 17-1-2 (11 KOs)
5. **VANES MARTIROSYAN**
U.S. | 32-0-1 (20 KOs)
6. **CARLOS MOLINA**
Mexico | 20-5-2 (6 KOs)
7. **JAMES KIRKLAND**
U.S. | 31-1-0 (27 KOs)
8. **CORNELIUS BUNDRAGE**
U.S. | 32-4-0 (19 KOs)
9. **AUSTIN TROUT**
U.S. | 25-0-0 (14 KOs)
10. **ZAURBEK BAYSANGUROV**
Russia | 28-1-0 (20 KOs)

WELTERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 147 LBS

C **VACANT**

1. **MANNY PACQUIAO**
Philippines | 54-4-2 (38 KOs)
2. **FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.**
U.S. | 43-0-0 (26 KOs)
3. **ROBERT GUERRERO**
U.S. | 31-1-1 (18 KOs)
4. **KELL BROOK**
UK | 29-0-0 (19 KOs)
5. **PAULIE MALIGNAGGI**
U.S. | 32-4-0 (7 KOs)
6. **JAN ZAVECK**
Slovenia | 32-2-0 (18 KOs)
7. **TIMOTHY BRADLEY**
U.S. | 29-0-0 (12 KOs)
8. **VICTOR ORTIZ**
U.S. | 29-4-2 (22 KOs)
9. **DEVON ALEXANDER**
U.S. | 24-1-0 (13 KOs)
10. **VYACHESLAV SENCHENKO**
Ukraine | 33-1-0 (22 KOs

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 140 LBS

C **DANNY GARCIA**
U.S. | 25-0-0 (16 KOs)

1. **LUCAS MATTHYSSE**
Argentina | 32-2-0 (30 KOs)
2. **AMIR KHAN**
UK | 26-3-0 (18 KOs)
3. **ZAB JUDAH**
U.S. | 42-7-0 (29 KOs)
4. **JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ**
Mexico | 54-6-1 (39 KOs)
5. **BRANDON RIOS**
U.S. | 31-0-1 (23 KOs)
6. **KHABIB ALLAKHVERDIEV**
Russia | 17-0-0 (8 KOs)
7. **MIKE ALVARADO**
U.S. | 33-1-0 (23 KOs)
8. **DENIS SHAFIKOV**
Russia | 30-0-1 (17 KOs)
9. **JOAN GUZMAN**
Domincan Rep. | 33-0-1 (20 KOs)
10. **CESAR CUENCA**
Argentina | 43-0-0 (1 KO)

LIGHTWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 135 LBS

C **VACANT**

1. **ADRIEN BRONER**
U.S. | 25-0-0 (21 KOs)
2. **MIGUEL VAZQUEZ**
Mexico | 32-3-0 (13 KOs)
3. **ANTONIO DEMARCO**
Mexico | 28-3-1 (21 KOs)
4. **RICKY BURNS**
UK | 35-2-0 (10 KOs)
5. **RICHARD ABRIL**
Cuba | 17-3-1 (8 KOs)
6. **GAVIN REES**
UK | 37-1-1 (18 KOs)
7. **SHARIF BOGERE**
Uganda | 23-0-0 (15 KOs)
8. **KEVIN MITCHELL**
UK | 33-2-0 (24 KOs)
9. **JOHN MURRAY**
UK | 31-2-0 (18 KOs)
10. **RAYMUNDO BELTRAN**
Mexico | 26-6-0 (17 KOs)

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 130 LBS

C **VACANT**

1. **TAKASHI UCHIYAMA**
Japan | 18-0-1 (15 KOs)
2. **JUAN CARLOS SALGADO**
Mexico | 26-1-1 (16 KOs)
3. **ROMAN MARTINEZ**
Puerto Rico | 26-1-1 (16 KOs)
4. **DIEGO MAGDALENO**
U.S. | 23-0-0 (9 KOs)
5. **ARGENIS MENDEZ**
Dominican Rep. | 20-2-0 (10 KOs)
6. **JUAN CARLOS BURGOS**
Mexico | 30-1-0 (20 KOs)
7. **JORGE SOLIS**
Mexico | 41-4-2 (30 KOs)
8. **JAVIER FORTUNA**
Dominican Rep. | 20-0-0 (15 KOs)
9. **GAMALIEL DIAZ**
Mexico | 37-9-2 (17 KOs)
10. **TAKAHIRO AO**
Japan | 23-3-1 (10 KOs)

FEATHERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 126 LBS

C **VACANT**

1. **ORLANDO SALIDO**
Mexico | 39-11-2 (27 KOs)
2. **CHRIS JOHN**
Indonesia | 48-0-2 (22 KOs)
3. **MIKEY GARCIA**
U.S. | 30-0-0 (26 KOs)
4. **DANIEL PONCE DE LEON**
Mexico | 44-4-0 (35 KOs)
5. **BILLY DIB**
Australia | 35-1-0 (21 KOs)
6. **JHONNY GONZALEZ**
Mexico | 52-8-0 (45 KOs)
7. **JUAN MANUEL LOPEZ**
Puerto Rico | 31-2-0 (28 KOs)
8. **CELESTINO CABALLERO**
Panama | 36-4-0 (23 KOs)
9. **HOZUMI HASEGAWA**
Japan | 30-4-0 (13 KOs)
10. **DAUD YORDAN**
Indonesia | 30-2-0 (23 KOs)

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 122 LBS

C **NONITO DONAIRE**
Philippines | 30-1-0 (19 KOs)

1. **GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX**
Cuba | 11-0-0 (8 KOs)
2. **P. KRATINGDAENGGYM**
Thailand | 48-2-0 (33 KOs)
3. **ABNER MARES**
U.S. | 25-0-1 (13 KOs)
4. **JEFFREY MATHEBULA**
South Africa | 26-4-2 (14 KOs)
5. **RICO RAMOS**
U.S. | 21-1-0 (11 KOs)
6. **CARL FRAMPTON**
UK | 15-0-0 (10 KOs)
7. **ALEXANDER BAKHTIN**
Russia | 30-0-0 (11 KOs)
8. **TOMOKI KAMEDA**
Japan | 25-0-0 (16 KOs)
9. **VIC DARCHINYAN**
Armenia | 38-5-1 (27 KOs)
10. **SCOTT QUIGG**
UK | 25-0-1 (18 KOs)

HOW OUR RATINGS ARE COMPILED

Championship vacancies can be filled in the following two ways: 1. THE RING's Nos. 1 and 2 contenders fight one another; 2. If the Nos. 1 and 2 contenders chose not to fight one another and either of them fights No. 3, No. 4 or No. 5, the winner may be awarded THE RING belt if the Editorial Board deems the contenders worthy.

A champion can lose his belt in six situations: 1. The Champion loses a fight in the weight class in which he is champion; 2. The Champion moves to another weight class; 3. The Champion does not schedule a fight in any weight class for 18 months; 4. The Champion does not schedule a fight at his championship weight for 18 months (even if he fights at another weight); 5. The Champion does not schedule a fight with a Top-5 contender from any weight class for two years; 6. The Champion retires.

THE RING Ratings are compiled by the magazine's Editorial Board, with the participation of THE RING Ratings Panel of boxing journalists from around the world. To see the complete list of our panelists, click on RATINGS at RingTV.com.

Records provided by boxrec.com

BANTAMWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 118 LBS

C **VACANT**

1. **ANSELMO MORENO**
Panama | 33-2-1 (12 KOs)
2. **SHINSUKE YAMANAKA**
Japan | 17-0-2 (12 KOs)
3. **JOSEPH AGBEKO**
Ghana | 28-4-0 (22 KOs)
4. **LEO SANTA CRUZ**
Mexico | 22-0-1 (13 KOs)
5. **KOKI KAMEDA**
Japan | 28-1-0 (17 KOs)
6. **MALCOLM TUNACAO**
Philippines | 31-2-3 (19 KOs)
7. **HUGO RUIZ**
Mexico | 31-1-0 (28 KOs)
8. **PUNGLUANG SOR SINGYU**
Thailand | 43-1-0 (28 KOs)
9. **JULIO CEJA**
Mexico | 22-0-0 (20 KOs)
10. **RYOSUKE IWASA**
Japan | 13-1-0 (9 KOs)

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 115 LBS

C **VACANT**

1. **OMAR NARVAEZ**
Argentina | 37-1-2 (20 KOs)
2. **TEPPARITH SINGWANCHA**
Thailand | 21-2-0 (13 KOs)
3. **YOTA SATO**
Japan | 25-2-1 (12 KOs)
4. **SURIYAN SOR RUNGVISAI**
Thailand | 22-5-1 (8 KOs)
5. **JUAN CARLOS SANCHEZ JR.**
Mexico | 15-1-1 (8 KOs)
6. **CARLOS CUADRAS**
Mexico | 27-0-0 (22 KOs)
7. **RYO AKAHO**
Japan | 19-0-2 (12 KOs)
8. **NOBUO NASHIRO**
Japan | 18-5-1 (12 KOs)
9. **RODEL MAYOL**
Philippines | 31-6-2 (22 KOs)
10. **OLEYDONG SITHSAMERCHAI**
Thailand | 44-1-1 (16 KOs)

FLYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 112 LBS

C **TOSHIYUKI IGARASHI**
Japan | 17-1-1 (10 KOs)

1. **BRIAN VILORIA**
U.S. | 32-3-0 (19 KOs)
2. **HERNAN MARQUEZ**
Mexico | 34-3-0 (25 KOs)
3. **MORUTI MTHALANE**
S. Africa | 29-2-0 (20 KOs)
4. **SONNY BOY JARO**
Philippines | 34-11-5 (24 KOs)
5. **MILAN MELINDO**
Philippines | 28-0-0 (11 KOs)
6. **ROCKY FUENTES**
Philippines | 34-6-2 (20 KOs)
7. **JUAN CARLOS REVECO**
Argentina | 29-1-0 (16 KOs)
8. **EDGAR SOSA**
Mexico | 47-7-0 (28 KOs)
9. **LUIS CONCEPCION**
Panama | 27-3-0 (20 KOs)
10. **FROILAN SALUDAR**
Philippines | 16-0-1 (11 KOs)

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 108 LBS

C **VACANT**

1. **ROMAN GONZALEZ**
Nicaragua | 34-0-0 (28 KOs)
2. **DONNIE NIETES**
Philippines | 31-1-3 (17 KOs)
3. **ADRIAN HERNANDEZ**
Mexico | 25-2-1 (16 KOs)
4. **ULISES SOLIS**
Mexico | 35-2-3 (22 KOs)
5. **MASAYUKI KURODA**
Japan | 21-3-2 (13 KOs)
6. **KOMPAYAK PORPRAMOOK**
Thailand | 46-4-0 (31 KOs)
7. **RYO MIYAZAKI**
Japan | 17-0-3 (10 KOs)
8. **JOHNRIEL CASIMERO**
Philippines | 17-2-0 (10 KOs)
9. **RYOICHI TAGUCHI**
Japan | 17-1-1 (8 KOs)
10. **ALBERTO ROSSEL**
Peru | 29-8-0 (13 KOs)

STRAWWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 105 LBS

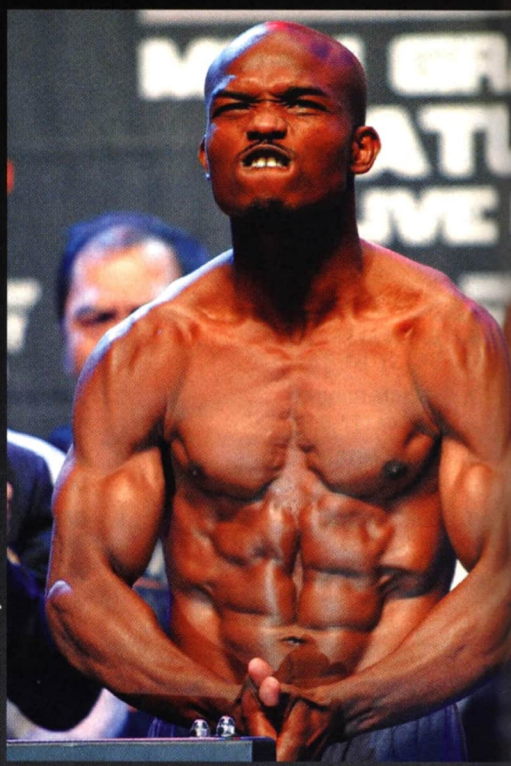
C **VACANT**

1. **KAZUTO IOKA**
Japan | 10-0-0 (6 KOs)
2. **MOISES FUENTES**
Mexico | 16-1-0 (8 KOs)
3. **RAUL GARCIA**
Mexico | 32-2-1 (20 KOs)
4. **DENVER CUELLO**
Philippines | 32-4-6 (21 KOs)
5. **WANHENG MENAYOTHIN**
Thailand | 24-0-0 (8 KOs)
6. **MARIO RODRIGUEZ**
Mexico | 15-6-4 (11 KOs)
7. **NKOSINATHI JOYI**
South Africa | 22-1-0 (15 KOs)
8. **AKIRA YAEGASHI**
Japan | 15-3-0 (8 KOs)
9. **HEKKIE BUDLER**
South Africa | 21-1-0 (6 KOs)
10. **CARLOS BUITRAGO**
Nicaragua | 24-0-0 (15 KOs)

POUND FOR POUND

***NOTE:** The No. 1 position is vacant.*

2. **MANNY PACQUIAO** (TIE)
Philippines | 54-4-2 (38 KOs) | WELTERWEIGHT
2. **FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR** (TIE)
U.S. | 43-0-0 (26 KOs) | WELTERWEIGHT
3. **ANDRE WARD**
U.S. | 26-0-0 (14 KOs) | SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHT
4. **SERGIO MARTINEZ**
Argentina | 50-2-2 (28 KOs) | MIDDLEWEIGHT
5. **NONITO DONAIRE**
Philippines | 30-1-0 (19 KOs) | JR. FEATHERWEIGHT
6. **JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ**
Mexico | 54-6-1 (39 KOs) | JR. WELTERWEIGHT
7. **WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO**
Ukraine | 59-3-0 (50 KOs) | HEAVYWEIGHT
8. **TIMOTHY BRADLEY**
U.S. | 29-0-0 (12 KOs) | WELTERWEIGHT
9. **VITALI KLITSCHKO**
Ukraine | 45-2-0 (41 KOs) | HEAVYWEIGHT
10. **ABNER MARES**
U.S. | 25-0-1 (13 KOs) | JR. FEATHERWEIGHT



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THE RING POLICY ON RATED BOXERS WHO TEST POSITIVE FOR PERFORMANCE-ENHANCING DRUGS

THE RING will remove from its ratings any rated boxer — including a champion — if such boxer at some point undergoes drug testing (Olympic-style or otherwise) and that boxer tests positive for a performance-enhancing drug.

In the event that a boxer has undergone testing in which the boxer provides two samples ("A" and "B") and the boxer's "A" and subsequent "B" samples test positive for a performance-enhancing drug or if his "A" sample tests positive and he waives his right to have the "B" sample tested then the boxer shall immediately be removed from the ratings.

A boxer whose "A" sample tested positive and is awaiting the results of his "B" sample will not be allowed to fight for a championship or rise in the ratings.

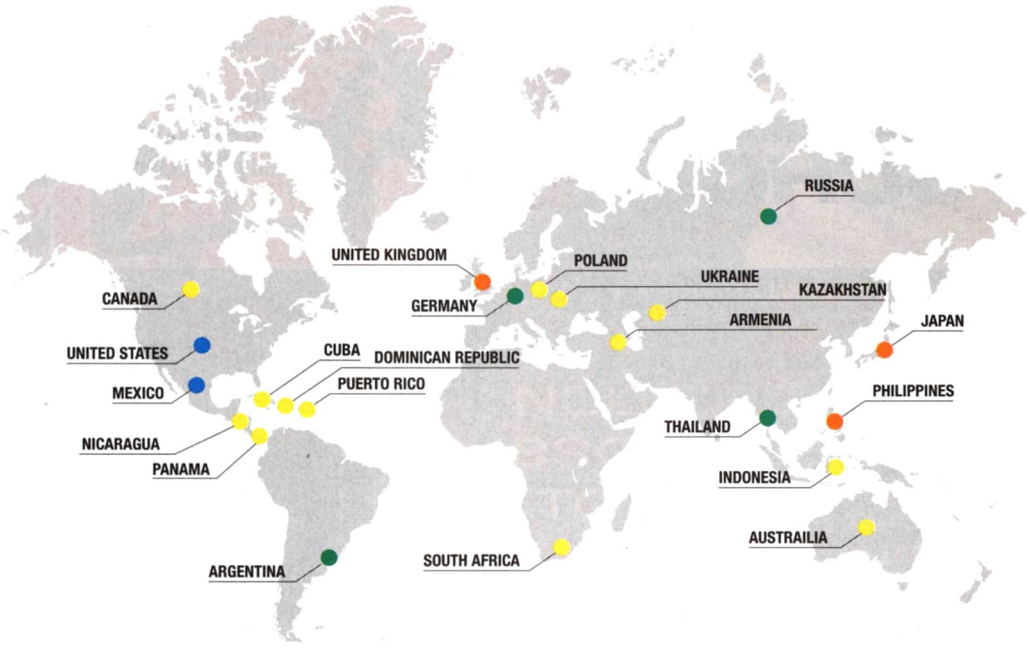
A boxer who is removed because of a positive test will have the opportunity to earn his way back into the ratings after any suspension period is completed.

A boxer who is dropped also may be reinstated if the testing agency subsequently reverses its decision or a court of competent jurisdiction finds that the test result was invalid.

RATED FIGHTERS BY COUNTRY

UNITED STATES	28-*
MEXICO	26
UNITED KINGDOM	17
JAPAN	16
PHILIPPINES	11
RUSSIA	9
THAILAND	7
ARGENTINA	5
GERMANY	5
SOUTH AFRICA	5
CUBA	4
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	4
PANAMA	4
POLAND	4
UKRAINE	4
PUERTO RICO	3
ARMENIA	2
AUSTRALIA	2
CANADA	2
INDONESIA	2
KAZAKHSTAN	2
NICARAGUA	2
BULGARIA	1
CAMEROON	1
DENMARK	1
FINLAND	1
FRANCE	1
GHANA	1
MALAWI	1
NIGERIA	1
PERU	1
ROMANIA	1
SLOVENIA	1
SPAIN	1
UGANDA	1
UZBEKISTAN	1

**Includes two ratings for Floyd Mayweather Jr. (junior middleweight, welterweight)*



BLUE VS. RED

Boxing is definitely a blue-state sport. In recognition of the U.S. presidential election, we decided to see how the states that went blue (those won by President Obama) and red (won by Mitt Romney) compared in terms of producing rated fighters. Landslide. The more-populated blue states won this election going away, 24-4. Here's a look at how the states did division by division.

DIVISION	BLUE	RED
HEAVYWEIGHTS	1	0
CRUISERWEIGHTS	0	0
LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS	3	0
SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS	2	0
MIDDLEWEIGHTS	1	0
JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS	4	1
WELTERWEIGHTS	4	2
JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS	3	1
LIGHTWEIGHTS	1	0
JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS	1	0
FEATHERWEIGHTS	1	0
JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS	2	0
BANTAMWEIGHTS	0	0
JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS	0	0
FLYWEIGHTS	1	0
JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS	0	0
STRAWWEIGHTS	0	0
TOTALS	**24**	**4**

Note: *The only red-state fighters are Devon Alexander (Missouri), James Kirkland (Texas), Victor Ortiz (Kansas) and Brandon Rios (Kansas). Mayweather is counted twice because he is rated in both the junior middleweight and welterweight divisions.*

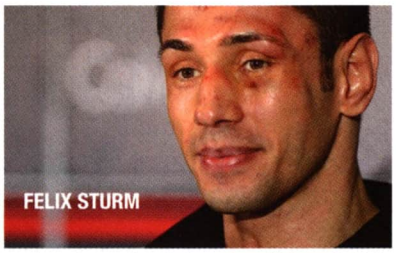


Image: Dennis Grombkowski-Bongarts-Getty

LONGEST RUNS

Pongsaklek Wonjongkam retired in early November after 607 weeks in THE RING flyweight ratings, the longest tenure among any fighter in the world. Here are the active fighters with the most weeks in the ratings in each division.

HEAVYWEIGHT: WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO, 392
CRUISERWEIGHT: KRZYSZTOF WLODARCZYK, 389
LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT: C. DAWSON/B. HOPKINS, 338
SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHT: LUCIAN BUTE, 347
MIDDLEWEIGHT: FELIX STURM, 480
JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHT: VANES MARTIROSYAN, 155
WELTERWEIGHT: MANNY PACQUIAO, 159
JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHT: AMIR KHAN, 176
LIGHTWEIGHT: JOHN MURRAY, 137
JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHT: ROMAN MARTINEZ, 220
FEATHERWEIGHT: CHRIS JOHN, 437
JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHT: P. KRATINGDAENGGYM, 284
BANTAMWEIGHT: JOSEPH AGBEKO, 270
JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHT: NOBUO NASHIRO, 332
FLYWEIGHT: MORUTI MTHALANE, 219
JUNIOR FLYWEIGHT: ROMAN GONZALEZ, 89
STRAWWEIGHT: DENVER CUELLO, 448

NOTE: *The country of fighters who have spent large portions of their lives in two countries was determined primarily by where they spent the bulk of their childhood.*

OLD SCHOOL 8

Our current champions in the original eight weight classes. Our guest this month is **Lance Pugmire**, who covers boxing for the *Los Angeles Times*.

MICHAEL ROSENTHAL RING MAGAZINE EDITOR
HEAVYWEIGHT: WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO
LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT: ANDRE WARD
MIDDLEWEIGHT: SERGIO MARTINEZ
WELTERWEIGHT: MANNY PACQUIAO
LIGHTWEIGHT: ADRIEN BRONER
FEATHERWEIGHT: NONITO DONAIRE
BANTAMWEIGHT: ANSELMO MORENO
FLYWEIGHT: BRIAN VILORIA

DOUG FISCHER RINGTV.COM EDITOR
HEAVYWEIGHT: WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO
LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT: ANDRE WARD
MIDDLEWEIGHT: SERGIO MARTINEZ
WELTERWEIGHT: MANNY PACQUIAO
LIGHTWEIGHT: ADRIEN BRONER
FEATHERWEIGHT: NONITO DONAIRE
BANTAMWEIGHT: ANSELMO MORENO
FLYWEIGHT: BRIAN VILORIA

LEM SATTERFIELD STAFF WRITER
HEAVYWEIGHT: WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO
LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT: ANDRE WARD
MIDDLEWEIGHT: SERGIO MARTINEZ
WELTERWEIGHT: FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.
LIGHTWEIGHT: ADRIEN BRONER
FEATHERWEIGHT: ABNER MARES
BANTAMWEIGHT: ANSELMO MORENO
FLYWEIGHT: BRIAN VILORIA

LANCE PUGMIRE BOXING WRITER
HEAVYWEIGHT: WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO
LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT: ANDRE WARD
MIDDLEWEIGHT: SERGIO MARTINEZ
WELTERWEIGHT: FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.
LIGHTWEIGHT: ADRIEN BRONER
FEATHERWEIGHT: NONITO DONAIRE
BANTAMWEIGHT: ANSELMO MORENO
FLYWEIGHT: ROMAN GONZALEZ

Note: *This is how the weights break down: Heavyweight includes cruiserweight, light heavyweight includes super middleweight, all divisions middleweight through flyweight include the "junior" versions, and flyweight also includes strawweight.*

RING 160-pound champion Sergio Martinez is a unanimous pick for best middleweight/junior middleweight in the world in our Old School 8 feature.

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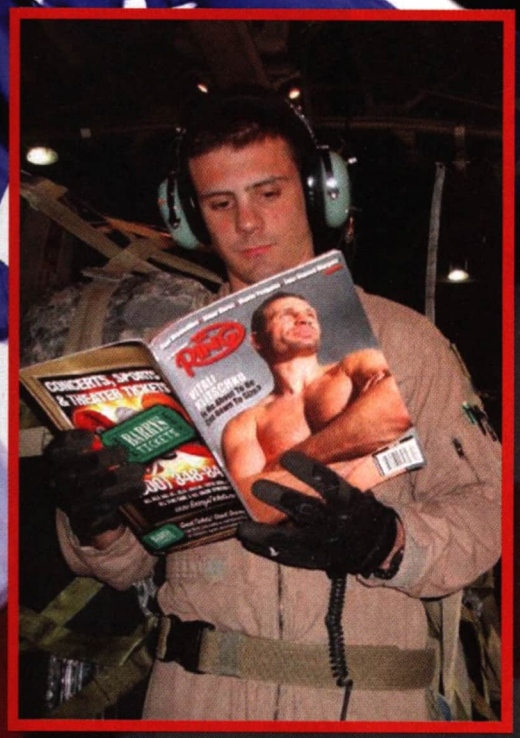

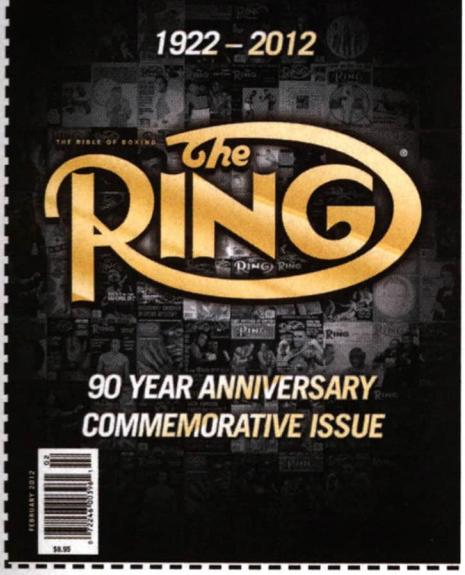

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MAYWEATHER AT 35

SUPERSTAR REMAINS AS GOOD OR BETTER THAN ANYONE AND SHOWS NO SIGNS OF MELLOWING

By: **Bernard Fernandez**

"Legacy" traditionally referred to something of tangible value that could be contained only in a will or a legal bequest, such as cash or property passed on from a parent to his heirs.

The more commonly accepted notion of legacy these days suggests it is composed of the entirety of any human being's earthly existence, a tale that is constantly being added to right up to the moment of death. The poorest and least accomplished among us thus create a legacy during our lifetimes, even if history scant remembers those who made less than indelible marks on the hearts and minds of others.

"A legacy is something that remains after we leave this world – something that speaks of our lives," writes Biblical scholar John Lifflander.

At 35, five-division world champion Floyd Mayweather Jr. already has crafted a professional legacy that towers over so many of his fellow boxers, past, present and, most likely, future. "Money" is hardly shy about expounding at length about his own magnificence in the ring, an indulgence in vanity that not even his most persistent critics would dare to dispute.

Outside the ropes, however, Mayweather's life is less well-ordered. It is a perplexing mix of miscreant behavior and random acts of kindness, of abject poverty as a child and ostentatious wealth as an adult, of an occasional desire to be loved and accepted by those who are disposed to revile him as well as an extended middle finger to those who can't or won't accept his flaunting of widely accepted societal mores.

Put it all together and a picture emerges of a complex man whose bleep-you persona is repellant to some, magnetic to others and subject to discussion and analysis even by non-boxing fans. As was the case with Muhammad Ali and Mike Tyson, Mayweather is an amalgam of pugilistic excellence and conflicting emotions that can't help but to command public interest. He is at once the masterwork

Floyd Mayweather Jr. remains largely the same – in and out of the ring – as he begins another chapter in his career. *Image: Al Bello-Getty*

hanging in the Louvre and the twisted wreck on the side of the road, and from both perspectives we cannot look away.

The assignment given me by THE RING editor Michael Rosenthal, at first glance, appeared simple enough. If Mayweather and the other half of that great what-if equation, Manny Pacquiao, continue to glare at each other from across a chasm of discord, what does the immediate future hold for the fight game's most-accomplished practitioner as he edges nearer the twilight of a Hall of Fame career? What are Floyd's options if he and Pacquiao never get around to trading punches instead of insults? And if the matchup we have all waited for so long (too long, in fact) never takes place, what will constitute the most remembered chunk of a Mayweather legacy that ultimately might prove as difficult to decipher as the Rosetta Stone?

One problem: Neither Floyd nor adviser Leonard Ellerbe made themselves available to be interviewed for this article. Mayweather's other most-trusted confidant, Al Haymon, is notoriously reticent about sharing his thoughts about anything with the media, so his participation in the project always was a non-starter.

The explanation for Team Mayweather's disinclination to cooperate, as relayed to me, is that Floyd and Leonard are miffed that THE RING, in its pound-for-pound ratings, leaves the No. 1 position vacant and lists "Money" and Pacquiao as co-No. 2s. For Mayweather, whose inner fires are at least partly fueled by any and every perceived slight, that is a violation of common sense that cannot be condoned. And so what if this magazine's 17th annual Top 100 ratings, authored by Welshman Anson Wainwright, has him in the top spot in the January 2013 issue, which hit newsstands in November. A year ago, Mayweather was said to be outraged that The Ring 100 had him second, behind Pacquiao. When it comes to holding grudges, the Hatfields and McCoys apparently have nothing on Floyd the Furious.

So it fell to me to soldier on and make what sense I could of the current state of Floyd Mayweather Jr.'s legacy, sans his more current thoughts on the subject. It would be easy – too easy – to compare boxing buffs' frustration with the lack of progress on making Mayweather-Pacquiao to, say, the failure to pair Roy Jones Jr. and Poland's Dariusz Michalczewski. But, while Jones-Michalczewski should have come off, even that much-anticipated showdown lacked the global frenzy that Floyd-Manny would have engendered, and still might if a firmer basis for common ground can be reached.

"The money we are talking about is astronomical,"

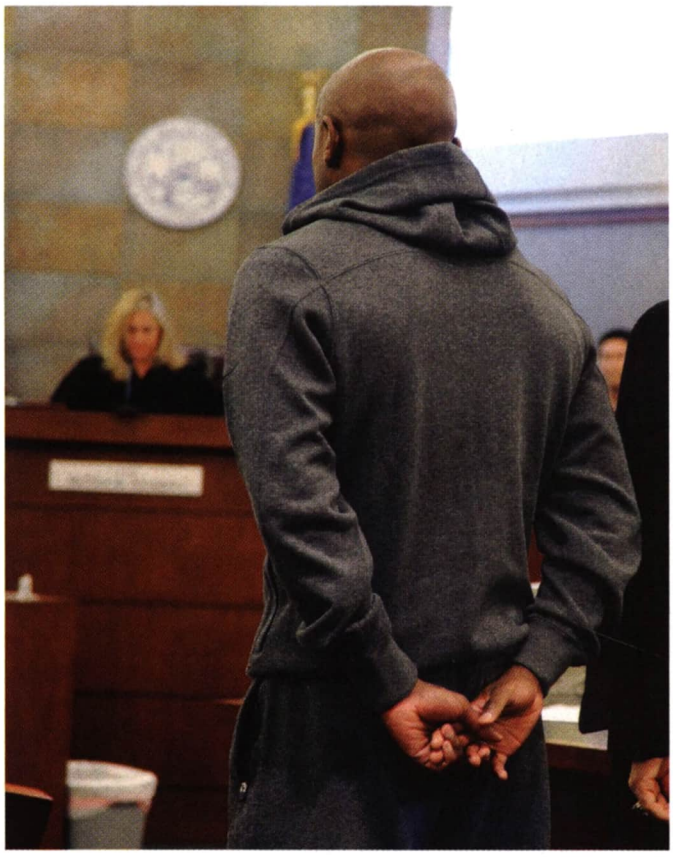


Image: David Becker-Getty

Legal issues put a major crimp in the life and career of Floyd Mayweather Jr. in 2012.

then-president of HBO Sports, Ross Greenburg, said in November 2009 about the impact a Mayweather-Pacquiao bout would have. "This fight has to happen. Think of Ray Leonard and Thomas Hearns. That's the type of fight this is. This should be our Super Bowl."

We're still waiting, and the increasing likelihood is that what should have been inevitable might never advance beyond the wishing-and-hoping phase. Two-time former heavyweight champion Riddick Bowe crafted a very nice legacy for himself without ever having thrown down with Lennox Lewis or his homeboy from the Brownsville section of Brooklyn, Mike Tyson. Destiny mostly or even partially fulfilled is better than having no destiny at all, right?

"From a financial standpoint, you certainly would have wanted those fights to be made," Bowe's longtime manager, Rock Newman, said in remembering the Bowe blockbusters that didn't happen, as well as contemplating the stalled status of Mayweather-Pacquiao. "But there are circumstances why fights that make sense don't happen. Nothing is automatic in boxing. Sometimes you wind up on a bridge to nowhere, and that bridge never gets crossed."

It has been theorized in some quarters, a notion mainly

advanced by Pacquiao devotees, that Mayweather (43-0, 26 KOs) is "afraid" of losing that cherished zero in the L column, which he perceives as being a cornerstone of his legacy and legend. To experience even one defeat is akin to the loss of one's virginity, a singular entity that, once removed, can never be restored. It is an intriguing hypothesis, but one that upon examination lacks much credibility. Mayweather not only doesn't think Pacquiao can get the better of him, he doesn't believe anyone, at any point in history, even history as of yet unmade, could handle what he brings to the table. The loggerheads at which these proud combatants still find themselves probably owes more to a need to exert their dominance at the negotiating table as much as inside the ropes, an alpha-dog mentality which, when you think about it, is just another way of keeping score.

At a chance meeting in 2006, Mayweather took the opportunity to berate the great Sugar Ray Leonard and to tell him, in no uncertain terms, of just how bad a beat down he would endure if only the two somehow could mix it up prime-on-prime.

"Of all the fighters today, I have to say that Mayweather reminds me most of me," Leonard said of that testy encounter. "The kid has every gift and physical attribute, but if he continues to be the kind of person he is, he'll never be one of us. He'll never make it."

By "one of us," Leonard was referring to esteemed boxing figures who won fans over with their skills, to be sure, but also with a measure of class and dignity. Then again, Mayweather doesn't really care what prim and proper appraisers of his talent choose to believe, if their evaluations are based on anything other than his ability to almost casually dominate opponents where it counts, in the crucible of battle.

"No one has a chance to beat me," Mayweather said prior to his unanimous decision over Shane Mosley on

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE FOR US LATELY?

Floyd Mayweather Jr. has fought only four times over the past three-plus years. His biggest accomplishment during that period might be his ungodly earnings, which total a reported $145 million – or about $48.3 million per fight. How much did he accomplish in the ring? That's debatable even though he won each time out, once by knockout. Here's a look at those four fights:

JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ
Sept. 19, 2009, Las Vegas
Result: UD 12
Positive: Marquez was on everyone's pound-for-pound list and had given Mayweather's rival Manny Pacquiao hell in three fights.
Negative: The Mexican counterpuncher had both the wrong style for Mayweather as well as disadvantages in speed and size. Still, Mayweather fought cautiously.

SHANE MOSLEY
May 1, 2010, Las Vegas
Result: UD 12
Positive: Mosley was coming off one of the most-sensational victories of his career, a ninth-round KO of Antonio Margarito. Many believed he was a legitimate threat to Mayweather.
Negative: The slow Margarito was tailor-made for the aging Mosley, who at 38 no longer had the speed or reflexes to hang with Mayweather. Again, Mayweather took few chances.

VICTOR ORTIZ
Sept. 17, 2011, Las Vegas
Result: KO 4
Positive: Many applauded Mayweather for taking on an athletic opponent in his prime. Plus, Ortiz was coming off an impressive victory over Andre Berto.
Negative: Ortiz didn't have the mental toughness to compete with Mayweather, although it wasn't Mayweather's fault he self-destructed.

MIGUEL COTTO
May 5, 2012, Las Vegas
Result: UD 12
Positive: Cotto was an underdog but had the ability and experience to give Mayweather his most-difficult fight in years. Mayweather demonstrated his toughness in victory.
Negative: Some considered Cotto to be beyond his peak going into the fight, one reason his strong performance was so surprising.

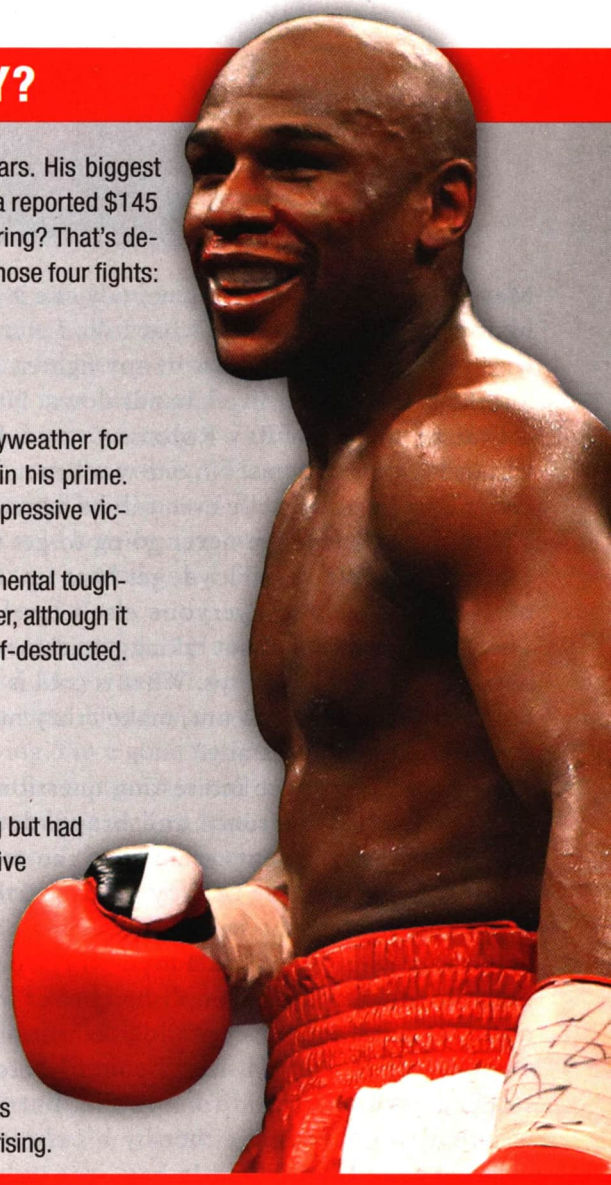


Image: Al Bello-Getty

May 1, 2010. "I'm not saying nobody else is good, but I know how to win. That's what I do. I win. I always win. I can adopt and adjust to any fighter, any style. I'm the best that ever lived, hands down. No one can get me to say Sugar Ray Robinson or anybody else was or is better than me. No one was better. No one is better. Maybe no one else ever will be better.

"But, hey, I know I'm never going to get the credit I deserve. People say, 'Floyd, get beat up. Get some black eyes. Stoop to everyone else's level.' Stupid. There's nothing cool about taking punishment, getting beat up, getting bloody lips. What is cool is the way I dominate you, shut you out, make crazy money and then go home to my family."

Such comments pose interesting questions. Where does all that belligerence and braggadocio come from? What ingredients went into the recipe that resulted in the making of Floyd Mayweather Jr.?

You can start at the beginning, in his hometown of Grand Rapids, Mich. Floyd Mayweather Sr., "Big Floyd," was an accomplished boxer in his own right, a welterweight contender who once nearly went the distance with Ray Leonard before being stopped in the 10th and final round. But the father wasn't always around, either by his choice or not, creating a void that Floyd Jr. has since sought to fill by whichever means he could.

"You know my background," Mayweather said before his conquest of Oscar De La Hoya. "I lived seven deep in one bedroom. Wasn't nobody there for me then. When my father went to prison (for trafficking drugs), wasn't nobody for me then. When my mother was on drugs, wasn't nobody for me then."

It is not difficult to imagine why Mayweather came to think of himself as a victim of circumstance and subterfuge, even as his boxing prowess escalated. He was obliged to settle for bronze at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, even though he clearly was superior to his semifinal opponent, Bulgaria's Serafim Todorov, the eventual silver medalist, who was awarded a controversial, electronically scored 10-9 victory over Mayweather.

Since then Mayweather has taken on and disposed of not only some very capable opponents wearing padded gloves, but promoters (most notably Bob Arum) and the media. Who can forget his in-ring exchange with veteran HBO commentator Larry Merchant after his (legal) sucker-punch knockout of Victor Ortiz, which prompted a feisty Merchant to tell him, "I wish I was 50 years younger and I'd kick your ass."

Oh, there was one brief instance when, perhaps against his natural instincts, Mayweather considered

Miguel Cotto gave Floyd Mayweather Jr. more resistance than many expected in May but Mayweather still won comfortably. *Images: Al Bello-Getty and Naoki Fukuda*

"The key to beating Floyd Mayweather is to never make a mistake. Every fighter who gets in there with me makes a mistake, and the mistake they make is getting in there with me in the first place."

adopting a kinder, gentler persona. In the spring of 2004 he signed on with co-managers Neal Menaged and Lewis Hendler, who made their fortune as the developers and marketers of the Original Scrunchie and other women's hair-care products.

"Our plan is not to tap into the thug image as a way to build Floyd up," Hendler said. "We'd like to see him make the transition to mainstream, rather than to pin himself to a particular culture which is fairly limited in terms of marketing potential."

It was a bad fit from the beginning and the arrangement ended after just one bout, in which Mayweather handily oupointed DeMarcus Corley. Going gangsta worked better than mainstream for "Money" then, and apparently that remains the case. Just within the past year he has served two months after pleading guilty to a misdemeanor battery charge against his former girlfriend, Josie Harris, as well as engaging in a very public spat with his would-be promotional partner, rapper Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson.

"I am always the villain," Mayweather said prior to his 10th-round knockout of Ricky Hatton on Dec. 8, 2007. "I know how boxing works. You have to have a bad guy and a good guy. I don't mind being the bad guy."

Still, he lamented, "Nobody ever talks about how Floyd Mayweather feeds (poor) families for Christmas, how Floyd Mayweather feeds families for Thanksgiving. I'm a good person. I have a good heart."

Mayweather's legacy is still being fashioned, fight by fight, headline by headline. Make of it what you will, but know this: He is no puppet dancing on the end of strings manipulated by someone else. He alone orchestrates the soundtrack of a singularly distinctive life.

"The key to beating Floyd Mayweather is to never make a mistake," said the man who, to date, has made none as a professional prizefighter. "Every fighter who gets in there with me makes a mistake, and the mistake they make is getting in there with me in the first place." ■

WHAT TO EXPECT IN 2013 ... AND WHAT NOT TO

By: **Don Stradley**

It is always tempting as a new year approaches to put on our prognostication hats. As we look into the future, we see some changes, but we'll also see some of the same old things that have frustrated boxing fans in recent years. And if you don't like our predictions, well, look on the bright side: At least we aren't predicting Pacquiao-Marquez V. Here's our take on what will and won't happen in 2013.

Image: Johannes Simon-Bongarts-Getty

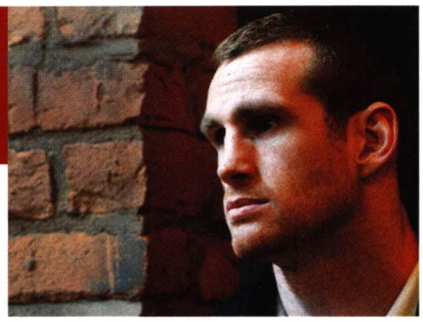
10 THINGS WE WILL SEE ...

1 THE RETIREMENT OF VITALI KLITSCHKO

There's not much left for the 40-year-old giant to accomplish in boxing. With his growing success as head of a Ukrainian political party, his boxing days may be numbered. A bout with David Haye may come to fruition, but that could turn out to be the last bout for Klitschko, who should be remembered as one of boxing's better heavyweight titleholders.

2 THE RETURN OF JUAN MANUEL LOPEZ

The first phase of Lopez's career came to an end after two losses to Orlando Salido. The Puerto Rican boxing commission then served Lopez with a one-year suspension for his nasty post-fight comments about referee Roberto Ramirez. When his suspension ends this year, he'll begin the second chapter of what should still be an interesting and lucrative career. True, he'll probably end up getting knocked out again in the future, but 2013 should be good for "Juanma" as he eases back into the sport.

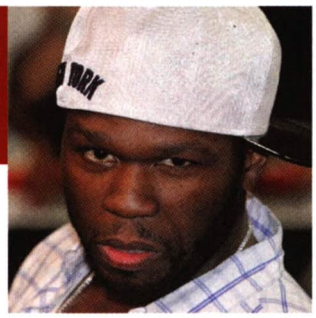


3 THE EMERGENCE OF A GOOD YOUNG HEAVYWEIGHT

There are several promising young heavyweights out there, and we have covered many of them right here in our pages. But none of them have connected with the public, and they're being brought along at a snail's pace. One wonders if they are secretly hoping the Klitschko brothers retire so they can fight over the scraps left behind. Still, we're betting one of them, whether it be David Price, Tyson Fury or someone else, will have a blockbuster year and create new interest in the division.

4 A SERGIO MARTINEZ-JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ JR. REMATCH

Sure, Julio Jr. is dealing with a lot of personal issues, and the WBC will make a big stink over "punishing" him for recent transgressions, but this fight will happen and it will be huge.



5 THE START OF 50 CENT'S CAREER AS A PROMOTER

He won't replace Don King, but 50 Cent has a huge following from his music career and possesses the sort of scrappy personality that would add some zest to the business. Breaking away from Floyd Mayweather Jr. and their proposed promotional entity may have been the best thing for him. As long as Floyd was there, 50 Cent was just Floyd's friend/partner. Without Floyd, 50 Cent gets to step out on his own. As 2012 ended, 50 Cent was already making deals to get his fighters (Yuriorkis Gamboa, Billy Dibb, and Andre Dirrell) on the undercards of major boxing events.

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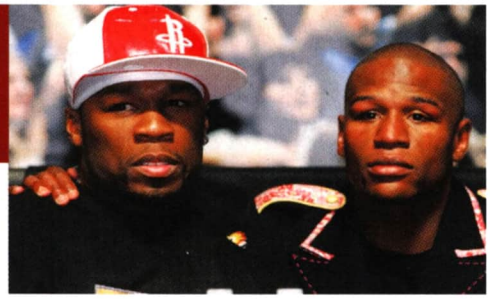

AN ALL-OUT TWITTER WAR BETWEEN FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR. AND 50 CENT

Floyd's history of making amends isn't good. When he holds a grudge, it sticks. Don't look for Floyd and "Fitty" to be buddies again in 2013.

A MAJOR TITLE FOR MIKEY GARCIA

He has won his share of minor belts, but in 2013 Garcia will finally win a major title. A bout with WBO titlist Orlando Salido was postponed but will probably take place soon. It won't be an easy night, but the younger, more skillful Garcia should come away with his first real title.

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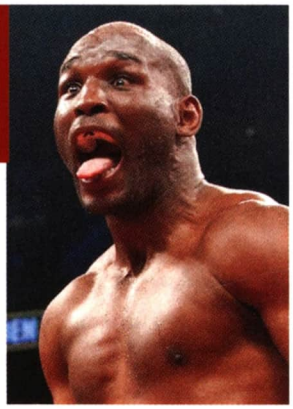

BERNARD HOPKINS WILL WIN A MAJOR LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT TITLE

Just as we were ready to predict Hopkins would retire this year and open a sweater vest boutique in Philadelphia, he announced his plans to fight in March 2013 at the new Barclays Center in Brooklyn, N.Y. We're not surprised even though Hopkins will be 48; he cherishes his niche as boxing's oldest gladiator. We were also sure he didn't want to go out on a loss and that he thinks he can improve on his last performance, a points defeat to Chad Dawson. Our prediction is that whomever he fights – titleholders Nathan Cleverly, Tavoris Cloud and Beibut Shumenov are being targeted – won't have the goods to handle the old man. We expect him work his weird magic one more time and win a close one.

ANOTHER FIGHTER OF THE YEAR AWARD FOR ANDRE WARD

Right now Ward's schedule may include a bout with Kelly Pavlik in January and a mandatory defense in June against the winner of the Mikkel Kessler-Brian Magee bout. Something tells us he wins both. By the end of the year, with nothing left to prove at 168, he could go up to the 175-pound class and start causing trouble there. It'll add up to another stellar year for Ward.

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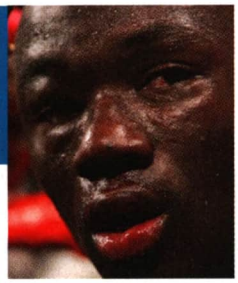
THE RING'S POUND-FOR-POUND LIST WILL LOOK DRASTICALLY DIFFERENT IN 2013

With many of the fighters on our pound-for-pound list getting up there in age, and with such young fighters as Abner Mares and Adrien Broner making cases for themselves, we can expect major changes in the months to come. ... Who knows, by the end of 2013, even Gennady Golovkin might be making a hard charge at our Top 10.

Pgs. 44-47 – Images: Getty, AFP, Bongarts and Hoganphotos

10 THINGS WE WON'T SEE ...

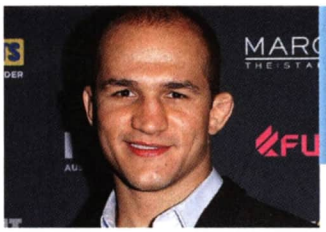


1 BOXING SOLVE ITS GROWING PED PROBLEM

It doesn't matter how many drug testing agencies are called in. It doesn't matter how loud Floyd Mayweather Jr. crows about creating a level playing field. When Evander Holyfield started pumping iron back in the late 1980s, he basically left the door open for every gym-culture sleazebag to sneak into the game like a swarm of hungry locusts. It doesn't help that most of the accused fighters are happy to play stupid victims ("Gee, I didn't know what they were giving me!"). The PED pimps are here to stay. It will take a lot to flush them all out.

2 DOS SANTOS CHALLENGE THE HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION

MMA bruiser Junior dos Santos has been quite vocal about how he could KO Wlad Klitschko in a boxing match. Klitschko could do a lot for boxing's image by fighting dos Santos, wearing him down, busting him up, and knocking him out. It won't happen, though. The powers that be at UFC wouldn't allow Santos to embarrass their product.

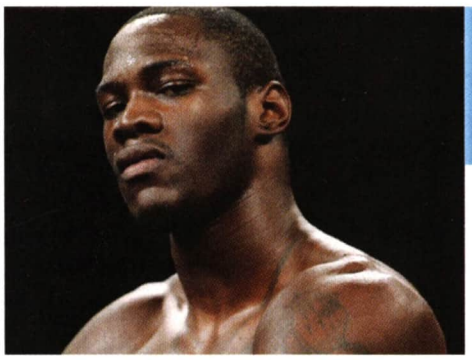


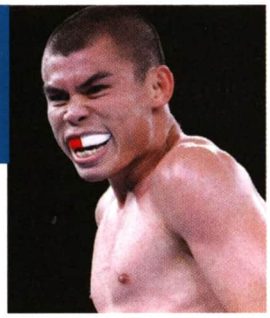
3 A HIGH-PROFILE WOMEN'S BOUT

Despite the success of the women at the 2012 Olympic Games, and the regional successes of certain female competitors, the truth is that women's boxing has nearly diminished to the point of no return. And by that we don't mean there aren't good female fighters working today, because there are quite a few. But none of them have the right gimmick to get them over with the public, and neither the top promoters nor the main networks have seemed interested in the ladies in years. Do Mike Tyson and Buster Douglas have daughters of fighting age?

4 DEONTAY WILDER FIGHT A LIVE OPPONENT

The terror from Tuscaloosa had such a promising story, entering the 2008 Olympics without much experience but coming home with a medal. Unfortunately, Wilder has been stuck in a rut of facing journeyman opponents lately. Aside from serving as Wlad Klitschko's sparring partner, his career seems stagnant. A proposed bout with Bryant Jennings would've been a nice step up, but fell apart due allegedly to debates over money. The Wilder camp denies the Jennings offer was legit. Wilder was scheduled to face 37-year-old Kelvin Price (13-0) in December.





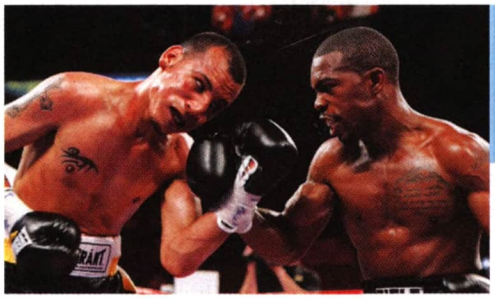
5 CHRIS JOHN FIGHTING IN THE UNITED STATES

The long reigning WBA featherweight titlist seems content with a proposed series of farewell fights in Singapore, Indonesia, and/or Australia. Already talking retirement, it is not likely John will sign off with a big fight at Madison Square Garden against Yuriorkis Gamboa. John had two bouts with Rocky Juarez (D 12, W 12) in America in 2009, but he probably didn't care for the draw verdict in the first bout, or the way Juarez staggered him in the second bout. We would've enjoyed seeing more of John, for he is a fluid, elegant fighter. In some of his recent fights he has even shown a willingness to trade punches.

6 NONITO DONAIRE FIGHTING ANOTHER OBSCURE INTERNATIONAL OPPONENT

We are all for the globalization of boxing, and we love seeing good fighters from other countries come to the U.S.A., but poor efforts from Omar Narvaez and Toshiaki Nishioka should put an end to importing stars from other countries to fight Donaire. The cost of flying these fighters and their entourages to America isn't cheap, and was probably painful to absorb considering Donaire isn't yet at the big money level. Hopefully, the networks and Donaire's promoter got the message. With the news at press time that Donaire would fight Jorge Arce – a known commodity – we think they did.

7 A MEMBER OF THE 2008 USA OLYMPIC TEAM WINNING A MAJOR TITLE

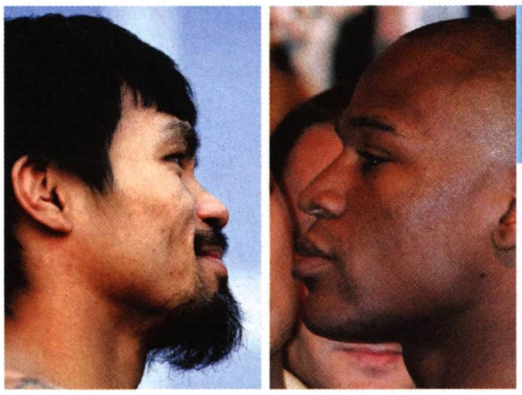


Although Demetrius "Boo Boo" Andrade and Gary Russell Jr. are off to impressive starts in their pro careers, they are in jam-packed divisions and aren't likely to crack the big time in 2013. The rest of the 2008 team are progressing at a slower pace, with some delaying pro turns so they could compete at the 2012 Games.

8 AMIR KHAN THINK BEFORE TALKING

Khan has said and done his share of stupid things in the past, but we wrote them off as youthful hubris, or frustration over the up and down nature of his career. Still, he seemed to hit a new low after he broke away from trainer Freddie Roach and clamed Roach's Parkinson's disease had created difficulties in training. Roach countered by saying Khan's people had asked Roach to "fire" Manny Pacquiao and Julio Cesar Chavez Jr., so he could focus exclusively on Khan. When Roach wouldn't oblige, Khan split from the Roach camp. Khan eventually retracted his statements, praising Roach on Twitter. Still, Khan seems unable to control his mouth. Maybe running his mouth so much is what weakens his chin.

9 A PACQUIAO-MAYWEATHER BOUT



The window of opportunity was already closing quickly on this one and now Pacquiao has to get past his December date with Juan Manuel Marquez, plus a proposed bout with Brandon Rios. When promoter Bob Arum mentioned Rios' name as being on Manny's dance card, it was shorthand for saying the Pacquiao team can still make money without Floyd. Meanwhile, there has already been talk of Mayweather fighting young Mexican star "Canelo" Alvarez. Mayweather's one-fight-per-year schedule makes it doubtful he and Manny can cross paths in 2013. We hope we're wrong.

10 A RINGSIDE JUDGE ADMIT HE MADE A BAD CALL

Not in 2013. Not ever.

AT RINGTV.COM

We asked our magazine correspondents to tell us the one fight – other than Floyd Mayweather Jr. vs. Manny Pacquiao – they would most like to see in the coming year. Go here http://bit.ly/V07FdT or scan the QR code to find out what they said.

Billy Smith maintains his professionalism – reliable, durable, game – in spite of his dismal record.
Image: Scott Heavey-Getty

FIGHTING ON

BILLY SMITH RARELY WINS – HE'S 13-128-2 – AND HAD TO ENDURE THE SUICIDE OF HIS TWIN BROTHER, FELLOW JOURNEYMAN ERNIE SMITH, BUT HE CONTINUES TO BATTLE TOWARD HIS GOAL OF 200 FIGHTS. CORRESPONDENT GAVIN EVANS PAID HIM A VISIT AT HIS HOME IN WALES. HERE'S SMITH'S STORY.

By: **Gavin Evans**

No doubt about it, Billy "Gypsy Boy" Smith has the face of a fighting man. There's that tell-tale dented nose, a nick above one eye, the residues of a bruise below the other. And the body too: whipcord lean, with muscular, tattooed biceps. He's only 5-foot-7 and never weighs over 150 pounds, but he looks as if he can take care of business if the need arises.

And that's what he does: take care of business when the need arises, usually twice a month, sometimes with just a few hours' notice. He'll find his way to wherever you want him to be, take his place in the opponent's corner and do what's necessary to last the distance. Sometimes he'll take a raw young prospect by surprise and get the better of him, but they rarely give him the nod.

Billy's record stood at 13-127-2 at press time, stark evidence of futility in terms of competition. Only eight of his losses have come inside the distance, which says something about his ability or at least his grit when you consider some of the men he's tangled with – a string of former and future "world" champions, British champions, European champions and scores of unbeaten prospects. Still, losing is his lot in boxing.

I've watched Billy over the years in rings all around the country, using his well-honed survival skills, always trying to give a good account of himself. So when he drives up to collect me from the station at the Welsh town of Llanelli, there's a familiarity in those dark features. And despite the fighting man's visage, I'm not surprised by his courtesy because that's the way most boxers are, especially those who will never have their names in lights. Nor am I surprised by the hints of hardship and sadness in the blue eyes of this 34-year-old journeyman.

Every boxing country has its "opponents," but Britain has a unique journeyman tradition: men who rake up 100 or more fights, always on call to take another gig at short notice, regularly fighting more than once a month. Some build immense respect within the game – such as Peter Buckley, who retired after his 300th fight (32 wins) in 2008.

Billy's twin brother, Ernie, was a journeyman as well. He was also known as "Gypsy Boy," and his final record of 13-142-5 (1 KO) is eerily similar to Billy's current mark. No two boxers, no two journeymen, no two men are the same, though. The bigger, blonder Ernie failed an MRI brain scan after his 161st

Image: Dean Mouhtaropoulos-Getty

The fact Billy Smith rarely wins has nothing to do with his effort. He lost a four-round decision to Bradley Skeete (pictured right) in 2010.

fight in 2009. Six months later, he committed suicide. But Billy boxes on, determined to reach the 200-fight mark.

When he takes me to his flat, the first thing I notice are three large mounted photographs of his twin on his living room wall. Ernie feels like a silent presence until we finally tackle the subject of his death toward the end of our afternoon together. But more of that later.

Let's start at the beginning, when Billy and Ernie were growing up with their four siblings (two brothers, two sisters), in a traveller family, sometimes in Kidderminster in the English county of Worcestershire, but often on the move.

"We're Romany gypsies," Billy begins as he settles into the sofa alongside his wife, Rosie, and eight-month-old son Billy Jr. "All of us were close, partly because there was no more than two years between any of us, but also because we used to live in caravans and we'd travel up and down the country, so we weren't in the same place for long.

"Me and Ernie were the closest, and we had lots of good times together. But each time we got put in a new school they'd call us all sorts of stupid names because we were Gypsies, so we'd get into fights and throw stones and all sorts of silly stuff together. And when he got into trouble with some lads, I'd help him out, and he'd do the same for me."

And then, for a while, the good times came to an end. Their father was jailed "for stealing scrap metal and that kind of thing," their mother went AWOL for a while, and the children were farmed out to different relatives – Billy and Ernie to an uncle. Billy underplays the disruptive trauma of the time, stressing that after his father was released from prison, and the family eventually reunited. He prefers to focus on what followed: the start of the boxing thing.

"In a way you could say it ran in the family," he says with reference to the deep fist-fighting tradition in Gypsy and Irish Traveller

"In a way you could say it ran in the family. My father liked to fight, but he was more like a few pints and a brawl in the parking lot sort of fighter. It really started with Ernie, who began boxing as an amateur."

communities. "My father liked to fight, but he was more like a few pints and a brawl in the parking lot sort of fighter. It really started with Ernie, who began boxing as an amateur."

Billy admits that he was initially reluctant. "At first I wasn't interested, but I was a chubby boy so eventually I went to the gym to lose weight. After a while, they asked me to spar. I was about 12 and they put me in with a man of about 20, and he punched me on the nose and it started bleeding, and I said: 'I want to go home.'"

And something else happened. The dogged, persistent side of Billy's character emerged. He went back to that Kidderminster gym and he "trained and trained and trained" and eventually he got the better of the man who had bloodied his nose.

In 1998, when the twins were 20, Ernie turned professional and picked up five wins and a draw in his first 10 fights before settling into the role as busy journeyman. Billy, who worked as a bus driver, fought now and then in amateur tournaments – just 28 times in 10 years.

"One day Ernie came to me said: 'Look at all the money I'm earning. Why don't you turn pro and do the same thing?' Well, seeing him get all that money when I was just getting little trophies made me think. So, after a while, I thought, 'All right, I'll go for it.'"

Image: John Gichigi-Getty

John Murray (left) is one of many top-tier opponents who have enhanced their records against always-willing Billy Smith.

Trained by former British and European featherweight champion Pat Cowdell, he made his debut for the princely sum of £300 ($480) in 2000. Fighting at anything between super-feather and welterweight, he picked up 13 losses in a row, mostly against bigger men who had never lost.

I ask him whether he didn't feel dispirited by his lack of success. He offers an enigmatic smile in reply and shakes his head slowly. "No, I never become discouraged, but at that time I knew I wasn't taking the game seriously. I was smoking and drinking and living it up and going off the rails. And because of that I would be gasping for breath after a round or two."

After a year, he packed it in and left the game for four years. "In a way I'd had enough. I need to sort myself out before returning to

boxing, so I went back to being a bus driver."

He returned in 2005, once again with coaxing from Ernie, who had joined up with a new manager-trainer, Errol Johnson. By then, Billy had quit smoking and had become a teetotaller, and he felt ready to take the game seriously. "Errol made me train hard for the first time as a professional, and I found I was able to go four, six, 10 rounds, without getting out of breath. And he got me regular work for better money."

At first, Billy went back to his losing ways – at one stage his record stood at 0-26 – but he was improving, until, for a while, an odd thing happened: he started winning.

In 2006 they put him in with a young junior welterweight prospect named Mike Reid in an eight-rounder and Billy found his hand raised at the end. Three fights on they put him in with an even better welterweight prospect, unbeaten 6-footer Johnny Rocco, and again Billy prevailed. He picked up five wins in six fights, but he was still in the opponent role, taking the gigs at ridiculously short notice.

"Once Errol phoned me and said, "Can you get to Brierley Hill in two hours? There's a novice welterweight Martin Gordon, and it's a six-rounder.' So I jumped into the car and made it just in time, and I won easily."

Soon after, he fought a return with the British Prospect of the Year, John Murray, who was 18-0 at the time. Five months earlier Murray had stopped him, an irritating setback for a journeyman because it means he isn't permitted to box again for a full month. This time Billy not only survived the distance but won a round and drew another.

Image: Scott Heavey-Getty

Billy Smith's family – wife Rose (left) and son Billy – is one of the main reasons he continues to ply his demanding trade . Niece Melissa is on the right.

"They should never have stopped it in our first fight, but in the return I was better," he said. "He's a tough customer and he loves to fight and he comes forward all the time, so you've got to let the shots go against him to keep him off you because the referee will stop the fight if you don't. And every journeyman knows they've got to do the distance. Every time I get into the ring, I say to myself: 'You're not going to get stopped.'"

Four months on, Billy was offered a fight for the vacant Midlands Area junior welterweight title (the equivalent of a state title in the U.S.) against Baz Carey, who'd twice beaten him before. Billy lost only two of the 10 rounds and was the new champion.

He was now considered more than a downmarket journeyman and in his next fight he was paid his best-ever purse of £2,750 after deductions ($4,375) for a six-rounder against the world-class Gavin Rees (who would win the WBA junior welterweight title three months later). "Rees was tough and talented, but I thought I gave him a pretty good fight, and I don't know that he was the best I ever fought."

For that honor, Billy offers four names: John Murray, Ricky Burns (another who beat him twice), the Irish junior welterweight Paul McCloskey and the unbeaten welterweight prospect, Bradley Skeete.

For a while, Billy was only put in with top-league opponents like these. He was considered too useful to feed to so-so novice prospects. Whenever he was put in with lower level opponents he was in with a shot. For example, in September 2007 he regained the vacated Midlands title by beating another journeyman, Carl Allen.

Image: Scott Heavey-Getty

Billy Smith lost a four-round decision to Freddie Turner (right) in 2011, one of his 19 losses that year. However, he also outpointed Mark Adams in four rounds in 2011 – his only victory since 2008.

"I was training really hard then, but after those wins, I became worried there would be problems with me finding fights and that nothing would come up because I would be considered too dangerous. But then Ernie had a chat to me and said I should do what I do best and earn good money being a journeyman, so I went back to losing again."

If that sounds curious, a look at Smith's record should dispel the notion that he wasn't trying. It's just that most of his opponents were bigger and younger and unbeaten, and even then, several struggled. For example, he gave away nine pounds to the 13-0 junior middleweight Muhsen Nasser and was considered unfortunate to emerge with only a draw.

When I ask how he feels about his 9.2 percent success rate, he makes it clear he feels no embarrassment and insists that he regularly finds himself on the wrong side of dubious decisions. "There are loads of them," he says with a resigned head shake. "I'd say about 30 at least – fights I clearly won but where the other man got the decision. It feels like if you're a journeyman, you've got to knock the other man out to get the decision. Like I fought a kid recently called Steve Pearce, who was a 4-0 welterweight prospect and I know I beat him, every single round."

He refers to the British practice of having no judges in undercard fights, with only the referee making the decision. "With journeymen, if we don't deserve it, we just go to the corner, but we know when we do deserve it and then we go to the referee. So with Pearce I went to the referee, but instead he raised the novice's hand, and to make it worse, the referee gave him every round. You just accept it and get on with it, but sometimes it's in the back of your mind for a while because you know you really won."

I ask him why he thinks this happens, and Billy shrugs again. "I suppose it's because they don't want their young, up-and-coming prospects to lose against

BILLY SMITH THROUGH HIS MANAGER'S EYES

Errol Johnson, a manager and trainer in the U.K., has worked with Smith much of his career. This is how Johnson sees one of his most-dependable fighters: ...

"Billy came to me through his brother about eight years ago and in those days I trained him as well as managing him. He worked really hard then – plenty of sparring – and I took him to winning the Midlands title twice.

"Today, I am just his manager because he lives in Wales. I have 40 boxers on my books, including 20 I train and eight of these are journeymen. Billy is one of the easiest to work with because he doesn't worry about who he is fighting, even if it is a middleweight. As long as the money's right, he asks no questions. I'll get a call from a promoter – sometimes a month before and sometimes a few hours before – and then I'll phone Billy and he'll say yes.

"When Ernie [Smith's brother] was having his troubles, Billy's weight rose to (junior middleweight), but now he could get down to (junior welterweight) easily because he seems to be training more. At 34, after so many fights, he may not be at his peak, but he could go on for another couple of years and get to the 200 mark.

"He might win a few more, but you shouldn't take too much notice of his record because there are so many fights he won but didn't get the decision. It's just a fact that they don't give journeymen the decision."

— *Gavin Evans*

a journeyman. It shouldn't be like that, but the referees use their discretion, and they know very well that the young boxer sells tickets, and this influences them, so they give it to him."

Billy is most comfortable at junior welterweight, and with enough notice and the right preparation, could probably make lightweight. But he usually has to fight bigger men. For example, his last win was against a 162-pound prospect, Mark Adams, and Billy didn't lose a round.

Billy says he will accept any opponent that Errol Johnson gives him, without asking questions. "I find out I'm up against a middleweight, that's fine. I usually get about £1,200 after deductions for a four-rounder, and I need that money, so I just say yes."

It's only when he is up against one of the elite that he gives any thought to his opponent's style. "Let's say I'm in with Ricky Burns. Well, I know he's tall and rangy, with a good jab and that he moves a lot, so then I know that I have to get close and use my own jab. But with most opponents I won't give it any thought beforehand."

Shortly after winning the Midlands title Billy and Rosie relocated to Llanelli. "Me and Billy met years ago in Kidderminster," she says, "but I'm half-Welsh and he has family up here, so when Ernie moved, we decided to follow."

The twin brothers seemed inseparable after that. "We were always at each other's houses, and if he needed anything, I'd give it to him, and he'd do the same for me."

Billy went through a 17-month inactive spell as a result of the move, a period when Ernie started to go into decline. He had a run of 55 losses in a row, and toward the end was getting dropped and stopped and counted out more regularly. In the space of eight months he suffered four stoppage defeats, and realized his days in the game were numbered.

"We didn't really get to the bottom of it because he didn't speak much of it," Billy said. "He told me he didn't have long left in the game, and maybe he would get into training. He had a lot to live for – his partner, his two daughters in Warwickshire and his young son, Ernie Jr., in Llanelli. And he always did his best for his kids. I think maybe it was the boxing that set off his depression because that was what he loved to do, but whatever it was he lost his spark."

Ernie tried to commit suicide by hanging himself, but he was found just in time. "He actually died, but they brought him back to life. He was on an oxygen machine for a while. After that, I thought he'd be OK, but he wasn't OK. He was different, not the same person – not at all."

Soon after, Ernie failed his MRI scan, which further depressed him. "I don't even know if it was the boxing that caused the shadow on his brain," says Billy. "It could have had something to do with losing consciousness from hanging himself."

Ernie disappeared on Jan. 29, 2010, prompting the family to

This must be a familiar sight for the residents of Swansea, Wales: Billy Smith doing his roadwork.
Image: Scott Heavey-Getty

contact the police and a search ensued. Eventually, after several frantic hours, the police phoned to say they had found a body hanging from a tree.

"We'd been frantically searching but it took them two hours to call us after they found him. They said they had the body at the hospital. It was a real shock and then when I saw his body, I just went numb. Even though he'd tried it before, he was still the last person you'd think it would happen to. He had his kids and all. I still can't believe it. If I'm being truthful, I seriously still can't believe it."

Billy and Ernie had always been a double act, both holding the moniker "Gypsy Boy" with pride, and now Billy was alone. The idea to pack it in must have come to mind but he never gave it serious consideration.

"I knew I needed to carry on – not just in his memory, but also because I needed to help provide for his little son, Ernie Jr. As soon as I knew he was dead, I knew what I needed to do."

Billy also had other obligations. His partner, Rosie, had epilepsy, which meant that he had to be within reach 24 hours a day, and his responsibilities increased when Billy Jr. was born in February 2012.

When I switch off my tape recorder, Billy pulls on the mitts and begins pounding the heavy bag in the playroom before heading off to a local gym where he does some more bag-pounding. He no longer does any sparring – "I'm fighting so often, it's not necessary" – but every day he goes for a hard run and works on the bags.

"I've got a good two years left in me, I reckon," he says as he drives me back to the station. "I've never really been hurt – sure, a little cut here, a bruise there, but those go away after a few days. I'll definitely make it to 200 fights."

I ask him whether he might consider following his brother's unfulfilled plan of becoming a trainer. "I could do that, I suppose," he says cautiously before warming to the subject. "I've been helping out at an amateur club, and there's no style I haven't come across, that's for sure: boxers, brawlers, short-range, long-range, southpaws, orthodox. Yeah, that could be chance for me because I've got one thing you can't buy — experience."

*****

Subsequent to our interview, Smith lost each of three fights — two to unbeaten prospects and one to an opponent making his pro debut. And he had another bout scheduled for Dec. 6. He'll fight his heart out in that one, probably lose and then come back for more. That's what he does. ■

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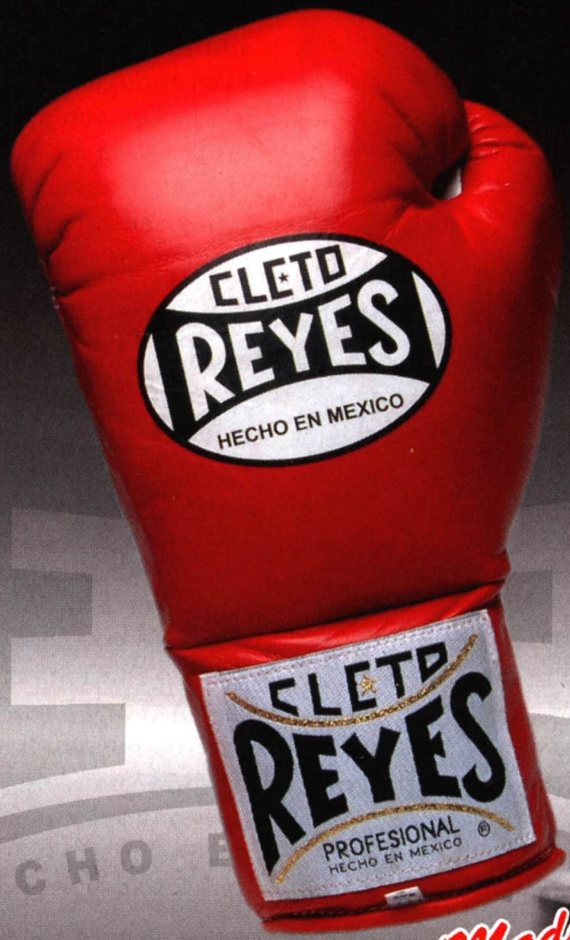

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BUILT FOR SLAUGHTER

BRANDON RIOS' DAD BUTCHERS ANIMALS. THE FIGHTER DOES THE SAME TO OPPONENTS.

By: **Norm Frauenheim**

Carnage never seems to frighten Brandon Rios. He grew up around it long before he fought Mike Alvarado. He saw it on his dad, Manuel, in the slaughterhouse at a Tyson meat-packing plant in Holcomb, Kan., just six-to-seven miles of road work from where Rios grew up in Garden City.

"He kills the cattle," Rios says. "He's the one cutting those guys up. I've been in there. I've seen what he does. It's ugly, nasty, bloody and a mess. Wow, I'd see all that and say: 'Unbelievable.' That's my father. He's a working man. He loves to work."

That's his son.

He loves to fight.

It's no coincidence, perhaps, that Manuel Rios wasn't in Carson, Calif., in mid-October when his son stopped Alvarado in a blood-sport epic, a Fight of the Year contender in just about any year.

"Dad had to work that day," Rios said in a voice always full of cutting-edge passion for a difficult, often nasty task.

It's been passed down from father to son like an old work shirt, stubborn genes, which might help explain the undisguised motivation for what Rios believes he can do and is willing to do. Don't try to tell him he can't. Ask him about Manny Pacquiao. Ask him about Juan Manuel Marquez. Ask him about Floyd Mayweather Jr. Ask him about anybody. No answer is too far from the slaughterhouse. At some point, his response is punctuated by a tone that says, yeah, he's convinced he can cut those guys up.

"The first couple of rounds would be hard, but I'd make my adjustments and I'd bring them down," Rios said.

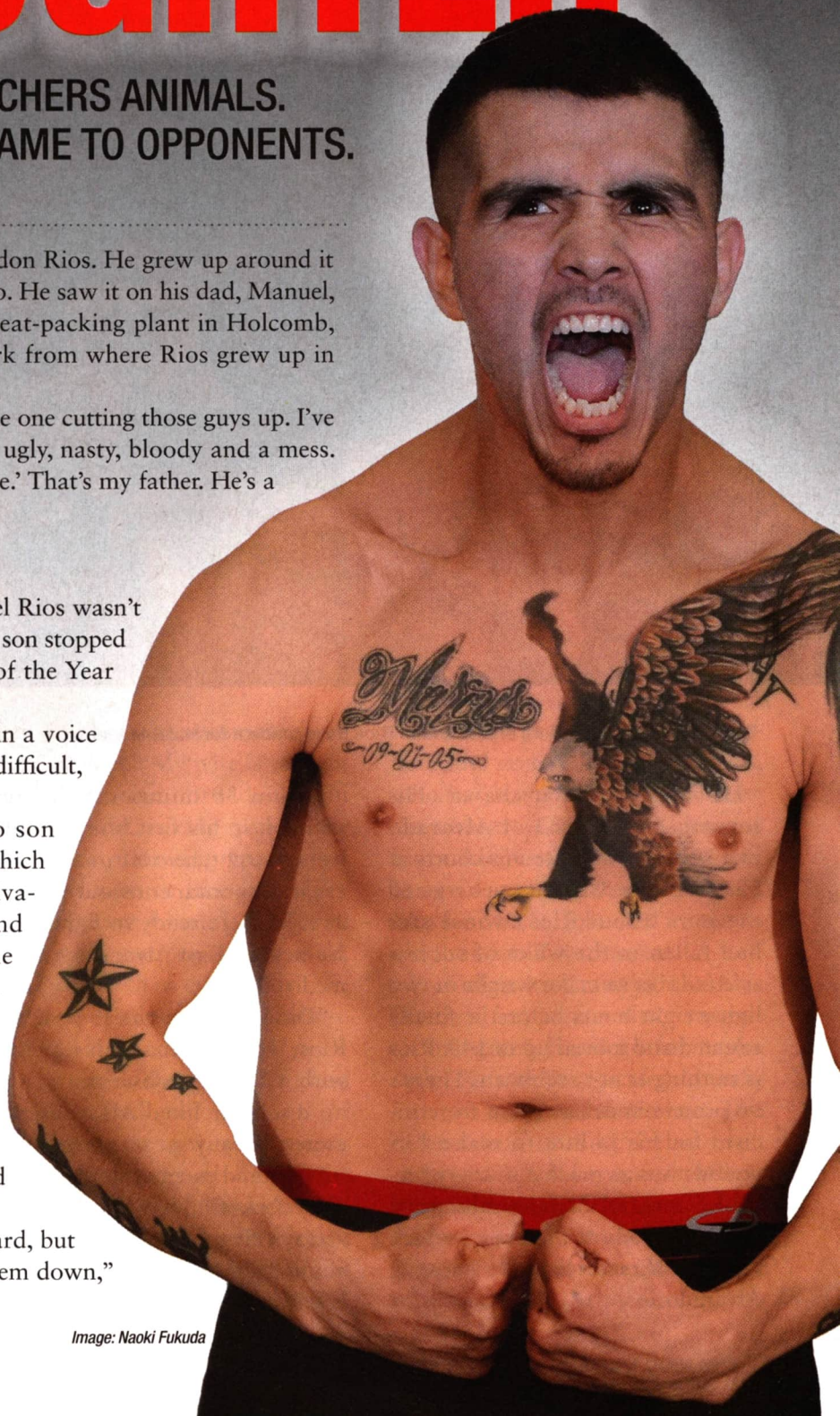


Image: Naoki Fukuda

Image: Naoki Fukuda

Trainer Robert Garcia (left) and Brandon Rios have made a formidable team.

He might get that chance. His seventh-round TKO of Alvarado in a ring above the tennis courts at Home Depot Center re-energized the buzz about Rios, whose star had fallen in the wake of successive failures to make weight in two lightweight bouts before he finally relented and moved up to 140. Rios is nothing if not stubborn. There's no protein in defiance, but the criticism for his failure to make 135 pounds was as much a source of renewed energy as a more substantial diet. Rios fed off the anger, which was still there not long after beating Alvarado.

Within 30 minutes of his wild triumph in his first bout at junior welterweight, he confronted reporters in a spontaneous outburst. It's as if he were ready to fight a double-header. First Alvarado, then the media.

"Did I prove a point to you?" said Rios, who punctuated his question with a 13-letter obscenity that left no doubt he liked Alvarado a lot more than any sports writer.

Anger and energy, often a combustible cocktail, have often led Rios astray. He admits it. He's talked about it. There was trouble with the law in Garden City for street fights. He looks around these days at kids in Oxnard, Calif., and is grateful he didn't grow up there.

"I'd be in prison, or maybe not around at all," says Rios, who moved to Oxnard in 2003 as an 18-year-old to train with Robert Garcia. "I was always in and out of trouble with the police. I was a bad kid. I was hanging with the wrong people. I was in bad situations. I was attracted to all of that kind of stuff back then."

During Rios' first few years in Oxnard, Garcia and manager Cameron Dunkin worried about his trips home. More trouble there could

have derailed a career that now is poised to fulfill potential evident during his amateur days, which includes an astonishing record. With his dad as his coach, Rios is reported to have won 235 fights and lost 35. That's 270 bouts. It's amazing he found the time and the energy for street fights. But he did. For Garcia, the question was to find ways for Rios to focus his energies and aggression on fights that lead to a bank account instead of a jail cell.

Garcia played matchmaker. He introduced Rios to his wife, Victoria Lopez, a professional therapist who at 35 is nine years older than Rios, now 26. They got married in 2010 before Rios' fight with Anthony Peterson, whom he beat by a disqualification.

"She makes sure I stay grounded," said Rios, who says his wife also makes sure that he eats right and his finances are in good shape.

Without Victoria, Rios says he might have fallen prey to all the temptations that come with success. Rios suddenly had some money and friends he never knew he had after his headline-generating victory over Urbano Antillon in July, 2011.

"When I fought Abril in my next fight, my head was filling up, getting kind of blown up," he said. "I starting thinking 'I'm untouchable, man. I started hearing it from people in the gym, from people on the street who recognized me. Blah, blah, blah.

"But you know what? She popped that balloon. Thanks to her, she made me come down and be level-headed. That's really why I was at 100 percent for Alvarado. I was back to my roots, to where I was when I first came up."

Garcia, the best man at his wedding, has always told him what he thinks, Rios said.

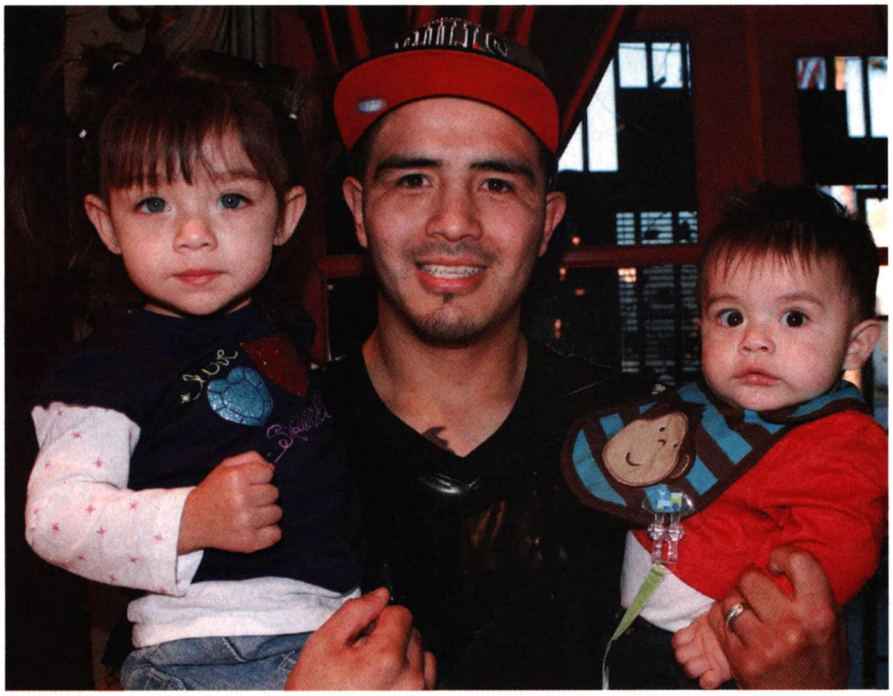
"But my wife, she's with me 24/7. She lives with me. She sleeps with me. So, it really means something when you hear from somebody so close," he said. "My wife is straight out. She tells me: 'Brandon, right now, you're thinking you're the best. You're thinking you're this and that. I don't like it. You're not the person I met. I didn't fall in love with you, 'cause you think you're better than everybody. No, I want you to come back down to earth.'

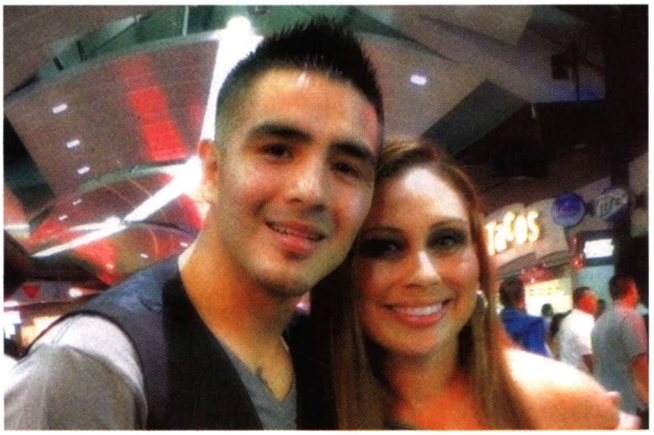
"I realized it then. I knew I had to pop that balloon."

Love for a strong wife, Rios says, is complemented by his Catholic faith, which is also new in his life. Garcia, a paternal figure in the lives of so many of his fighters, also introduced Rios to religion.

"Because of Robert, I got baptized and go to church," said Rios, who has named his four children after boxers – 9-year-old Laila for Laila Ali, 6-year-old Marco for Marco Antonio Barrera, 2-year-old Mia for Mia St. John and 8-month-old Brandon II for his dad.

Providing for those kids and his family's future is a risky proposition, given Rios' go-for-broke style. He's been criticized for taking too much punishment. The dilemma is that he's also been cheered for it. If he weren't willing to take those punches, would his victory over Alvarado be a leading candidate for the 2012 Fight of the Year? Probably not.





Brandon Rios (pictured with his kids and wife Victoria) credits Victoria with helping to keep him grounded.
Images: Courtesy of the Rios family

Rios dismisses most of the warnings. While doing this interview via telephone, he said he was watching tapes of the Alvarado fight.

"I give myself an A-minus," he said.

Why the minus?

"Cause maybe I took a few too many punches," Rios said.

Rios might have been joking. But Garcia isn't with his efforts to prepare Rios for life after boxing, which is a career that can end in the time that it takes to throw one punch.

"I don't want him to have a long career," says Garcia, a former International Boxing Federation featherweight champion who retired when he was 27. "If he does good in the next two or three years, where he's pretty much secure for the rest of his life, I'll even tell him."

But Rios feels he can fight on. Not every fighter, he says, is built the same way or responds the same after so many rounds in harm's way. He mentions Julio Cesar Chavez Sr., whose pro resume includes 115 bouts. Then, there was Arturo Gatti, one of Rios' heroes

Re-enactment of the legendary Gatti-Micky Ward series was what Rios had envisioned before fighting Alvarado in a bout that now stands alone in its own right. The Gatti parallel leaves questions about what awaits Rios, though.

When Gatti stepped up against a world-class fighter, he was no match. He suffered one-sided losses to Oscar De La Hoya and Mayweather. In 2001, De La Hoya stopped him in five rounds. In 2005, Mayweather made him quit in six. Would the same fate be in store for Rios, a self-proclaimed brawler, if he faced Pacquiao or Marquez or Mayweather?

Of the three, Marquez is considered by many to be the best match for Rios. Marquez stands in front

Images: Naoki Fukuda

One thing that stood out in Rios' knockout victory over Mike Alvarado was his Persistence; he never stopped coming. Below, Trainer Robert Garcia and Brandon Rios have done a lot of celebrating the past few years.

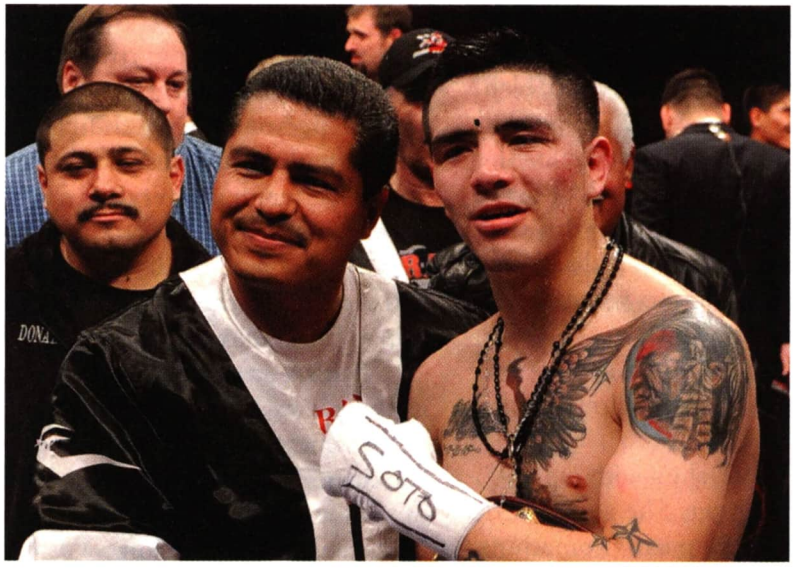


Image: Naoki Fukuda

Brandon Rios had an I-told-you-so attitude after his victory over Mike Alvarado.

of his opponent. He'd be there for Rios. If Pacquiao's skills haven't eroded as much as some think, there's concern that the Filipino would overwhelm him and cut him with an avalanche of punches from a variety of angles. Mayweather's precision is a different weapon, but just as deadly.

Nevertheless, the numbers in Rios' emergence add up to momentum that has propelled him to the front of the line. Since a 10-round draw against Manuel Perez on Oct. 2, 2008, Rios is 13-0 with 11 knockouts, an astonishing KO figure given his elite opposition. Only Abril (who lost a split decision) and Peterson (DQ'd because of low blows) were spared stoppages.

"If I say I'm going to knock you out, I'm going to (bleeping) knock you out," Rios said. "Simple as that. You hear a lot about warriors. But I really am one. I don't care who I fight, just so long as I get to fight. It's really not about the money. I don't do it to get paid. I do it, 'cause I really love it."

It was love the first time an 8-year-old Rios threw and took a punch in an unlikely place. Garden City was never known as a boxing hotbed, until perhaps now.

Victor Ortiz, Rios and welterweight Antonio Orozco all began boxing there as young kids. Ortiz and Rios, once sparring partners and now unfriendly rivals, were each given keys to the city in separate ceremonies. Garden City might give a third key to a boxer if Orozco (15-0, 11 KOs) continues to win in the style he displayed on Nov. 10, when he stopped Danny Escobar on the undercard of Abner Mares' unanimous decision over Anselmo Moreno in Los Angeles.

Before them, the town of about 26,000 in western Kansas was better known for the 1959 trial of two convicts accused of murdering a family that lived not far from that slaughterhouse where Rios' dad works. Truman Capote wrote a novel about it. Later, an acclaimed film was based on Capote's literary masterpiece. There's an argument about the accuracy of *In Cold Blood* from many people who lived there at the time, however.

It's not real, they say, which is something nobody will ever say about Rios. ■

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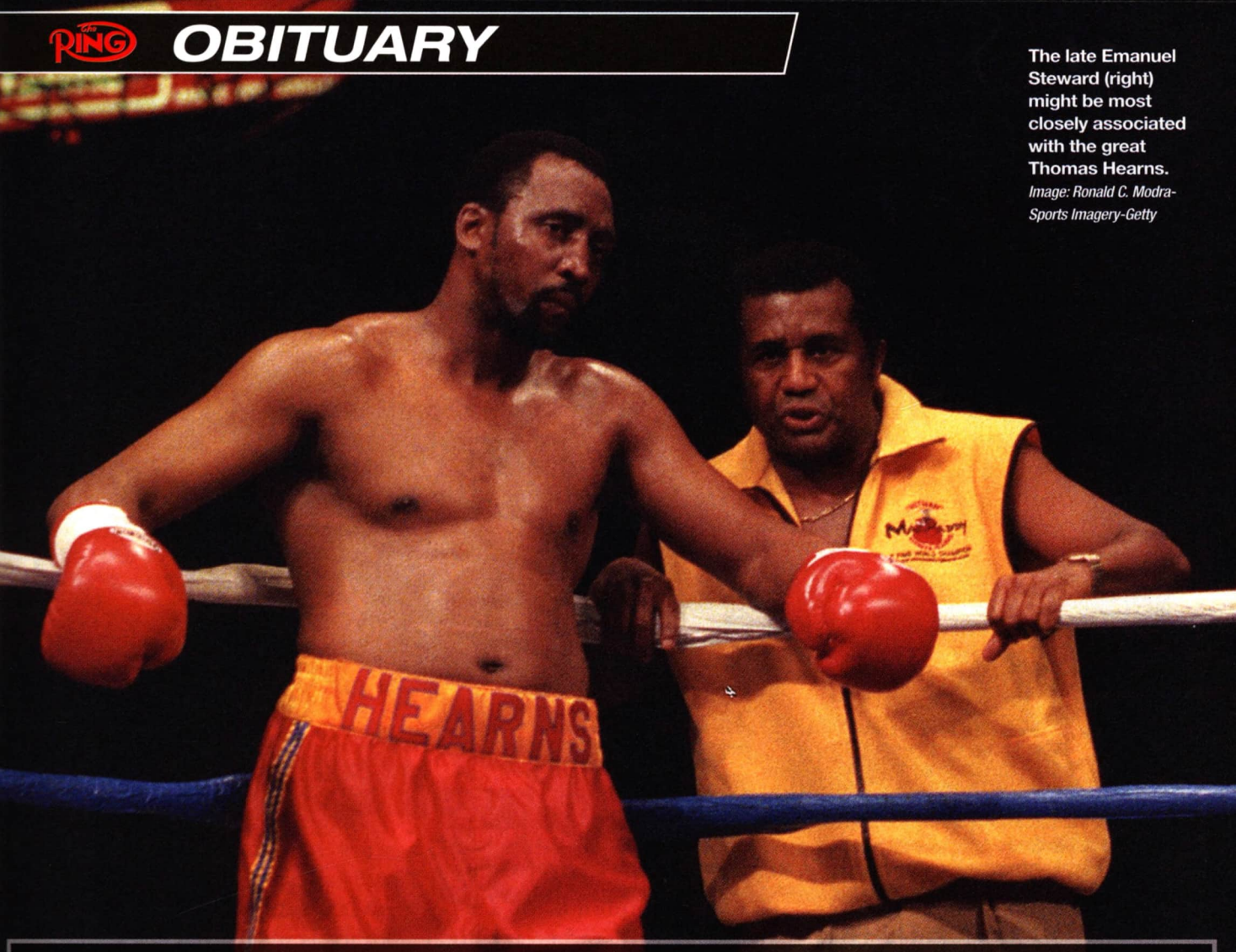


The late Emanuel Steward (right) might be most closely associated with the great Thomas Hearns.
Image: Ronald C. Modra-Sports Imagery-Getty

A BOXING TRAGEDY

THE DEATH OF EMANUEL STEWARD LEAVES AN ENORMOUS VOID IN THE SPORT

By: **Ron Borges**

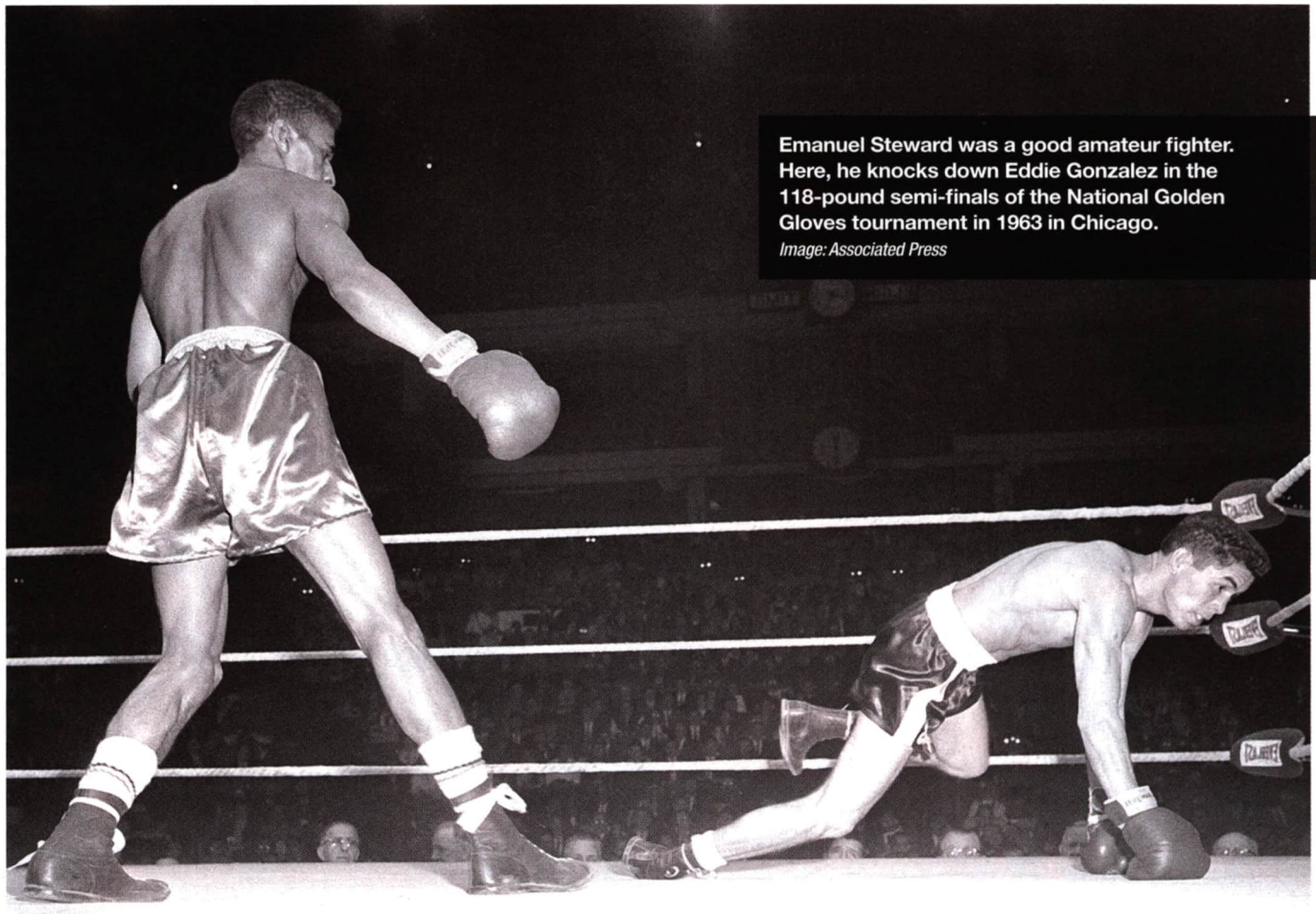
Emanuel Steward didn't just train fighters. In many cases, he raised them.

He built not just champions out of a string of skinny kids from Detroit's hardest edges but also a brand that became as iconic as he turned out to be. He was a man who built things the hard way. He built them from the ground up.

As his celebrity and the Kronk brand grew and became tightly intertwined, Emanuel Steward became a trainer to the stars, a fast mind for hire in a ruthless business where money and power in the market place can buy the kind of advantages a boxing mystic like Steward can provide.

He spent the latter part of his career primarily schooling already-skilled world champions like Lennox Lewis, Wladimir Klitschko, Oscar De La Hoya, Naseem Hamed, Evander Holyfield, Julio Cesar Chavez, Miguel Cotto, Mike McCallum, Graciano Rocchigiani, Jermain Taylor and others, improving nearly all of them and resurrecting a few, including Lewis and Klitschko. He took the latter two from fallen heavyweight champions to dominant ones.

But despite those high-profile successes, that is not Emanuel Steward's legacy, nor should it be.



Emanuel Steward was a good amateur fighter. Here, he knocks down Eddie Gonzalez in the 118-pound semi-finals of the National Golden Gloves tournament in 1963 in Chicago.
Image: Associated Press

His legacy remains in the place he never truly left. It remains at Kronk, the basement gym he built into an improbable Detroit powerhouse at the corner of McGraw St. and 33rd Avenue.

Steward first became steeped in boxing's dark arts at Detroit's Brewster Recreational Center at the age of 12, after his mother moved the family from Bottom Creek, W.Va., following a divorce. He was already a boy absorbed with boxing, having received a pair of Jack Dempsey-model boxing gloves for Christmas four years earlier. He put them to good use.

Brewster was once the training ground of Joe Louis and Eddie Futch, which made it an academy of boxing for a kid like Steward. By the time he left it in 1963 he was a 119-pound National Golden Gloves champion with a 94-3 amateur record and no intention of turning pro.

Although boxing was his passion, he had mouths to feed and the most reliable way to do that was not climbing between the ropes. It was climbing power poles for Detroit Edison, so up he went.

While Steward could connect the power lines as well as anyone – a fact he memorialized years later in a photograph on the wall of his home in Detroit's Rosedale Park that showed him hanging from a light pole in full work gear – his real gift was teaching young men how to turn on their own power. He taught them how to deliver the kind of bad-intentioned punches that made other men wobble or think twice about their choice of profession. Most of all he taught them how to win outside the ropes as well as inside them.

That's why the grief was felt so widely and the pain ran so deep on Oct. 25, when what many already feared true was announced: Emanuel Steward had passed away at 68 after a brief, one-sided fight with diverticulitis and, some believe, colon cancer.

Whatever got him was of small import when compared to what the man left behind. Same was true of the controversy the day before his death when rumors swept through boxing, as they often do, and some ill-informed ones reached the internet, as they often do as well. The rumors said one of boxing's greatest trainers had passed, when in fact he was fighting on.

This caused his sister, Diane Steward-Jones, agitation she

didn't need but it was also a measure of how large a figure her brother had become. His passing, which officially came at 2:46 p.m. the following day, was so large an event it was more than a family tragedy. It was a boxing tragedy.

If boxing is the sport of pain, it may have never felt more of it than when Steward-Jones told the Detroit Free Press: "He's gone home. He was in no pain and we sang to him, as did the doctors present. He had loved ones around him."

Surely he did, because he had loved ones everywhere. The first time I met Emanuel Steward was similar to the way many people did – in the back of a smoky old auditorium in Sacramento, in 1977. We were young men talking boxing. He was there scouting a rising local welterweight named Pete Ranzany, and I was asking him about a skinny kid who kept knocking people out. The kid's name was Tommy Hearns, but they called him the Motor City Cobra in those days. He wouldn't become The Hit Man until a few more famous names went to sleep courtesy of his hands and Steward's deft training. By the end of our talk Manny was smiling and so was I.

The last time I saw Emanuel Steward was in the back of a smokeless new auditorium in Las Vegas. It was 2012 and we were no longer young men but rather old friends. We were still talking boxing. He was still smiling and so was I.

Those were two of the constants in Steward's life for the past 50 years, as much a part of him as boxing and the boxers who often lived at his home for years on end. He was the father many of them never knew, a voice that advised them not simply about boxing but also about how a boy becomes a man and how a man copes with the dangers of victory and the difficulties of defeat.

Image: THE RING

Emanuel Steward had a remarkable stable of fighters in 1991. Standing (from left), Leeonzer Barber, Gaby Canizales, Steward, Dennis Andries and Mark Breland. Kneeling (from left), Michael Moorer, Oba Carr, Jemal Hinton and Jesse Benavides.

"Through the good times, the difficult times, he was there for me," said Hearns, Steward's greatest and most-cherished fighter. "Emanuel Steward is the man who taught me how to deal with all the different situations in life. I was like the son he never had and he was like a daddy to me. He literally changed my life."

Though always Steward's most beloved fighter, Hearns was not his first world champion. That honor belonged to Hilmer Kenty, who, on March 2, 1980, upset Ernesto Espana in Detroit by aggressively attacking him from the opening bell until he stopped him in the ninth round to win the WBA lightweight title.

According to Kenty, that was a night of magic as well as mischief, much of both brewed up by Steward.

"Espana came into the gym as we were finishing working out," Kenty (29-2, 17 KOs) told the *Detroit Free Press* after Steward's passing. "Emanuel told me, 'Get up on your toes and start dancing around.' I did, moving, ducking and weaving. I don't think Ernesto expected us to be the aggressors. Manny knew exactly what he was doing, and we trapped Espana.

"He would talk to you all the way through a fight. There will never be another trainer like Emanuel Steward. It was impossible not to respect and like him. It was impossible not to love him. I was blessed to be the first

world champion from the Kronk and to have had Emanuel Steward in my corner."

Five months after Kenty put Kronk and Steward on the map, Hearns, the skinny kid who once couldn't punch and who lost his first six amateur fights before Steward transformed him, would win his first world title, destroying the fierce-punching Mexican WBA welterweight champion Pipino Cuevas in two rounds. It was the first of six world titles Hearns would win in five weight classes and the second of 42 world champions Steward would train.

Hearns was the leading edge of the first wave of Kronk fighters, the ones who took over first amateur circles and later a large swath of the professional game starting in the mid-1970s. Hearns, Kenty, Jimmy Paul, Mickey Goodwin, Duane Thomas and the McCrory brothers, Steve and Milton, were a tsunami that hit boxing not long after Steward was first lured back into the gym by his half brother James.

Steward was 26 when he agreed to take his brother to the gym and teach him what he knew. Within a year he was earning $35 a week as a part-time boxing coach in a gym at the bottom of the Kronk Recreation Center. Nothing was the same for him or boxing after that.

Kronk was a hard place to work in a hard part of Detroit, but it became a place to dream in a neighborhood where few dreamers existed. It was a desert oasis in a dry land and damn sure as hot as one.

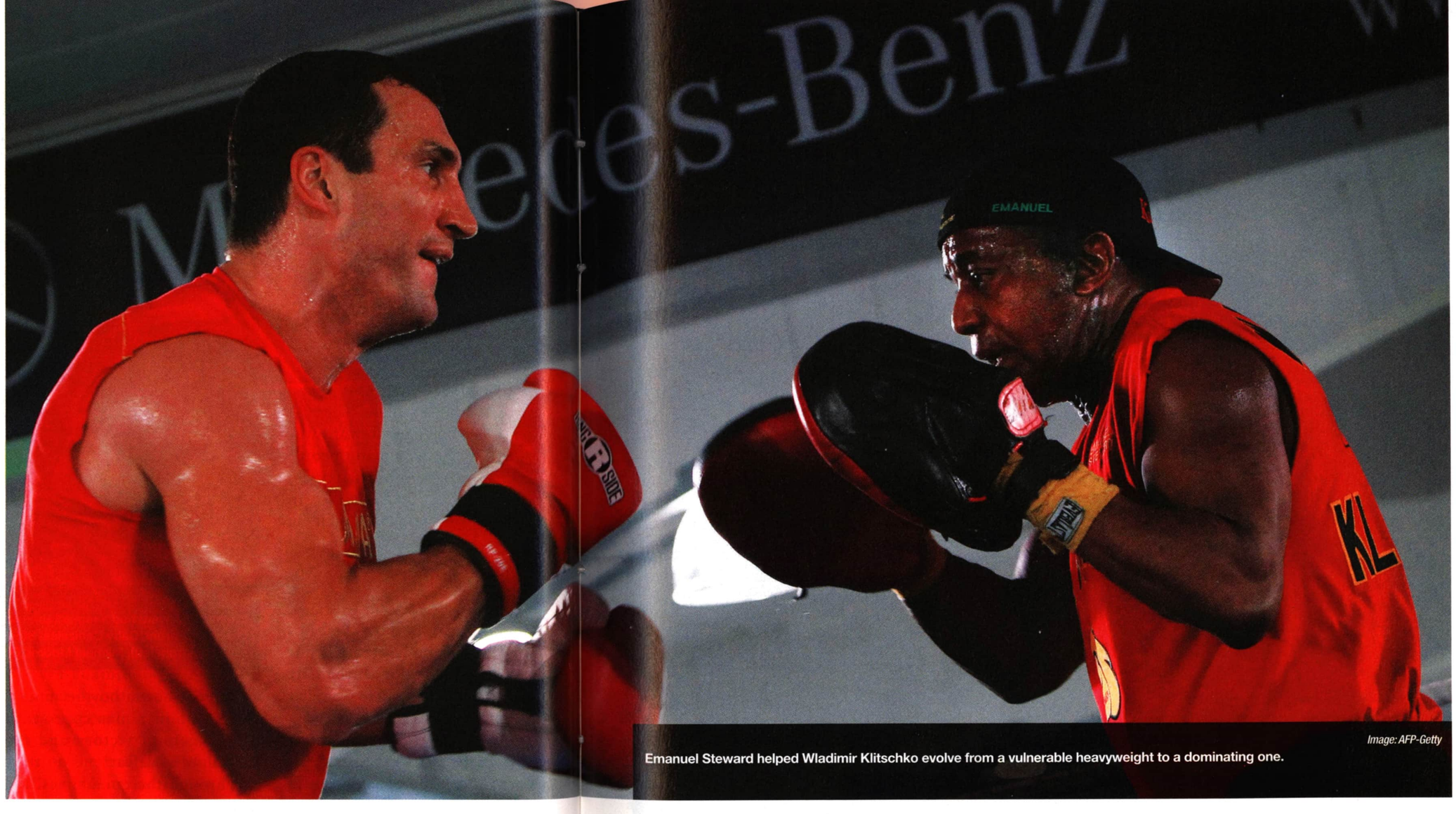
Beginning in 1971, Steward built a seven-boy team that terrorized the amateurs from that basement. Jammed inside an old car that was a far cry from the red Rolls Royce he would tool around Detroit in years later, Steward and those kids went 21-0 in the Golden Gloves tournament one year. As Hearns said, lives changed, including Steward's.

"Those were some times," Steward often recalled. "Greatest Golden Gloves team in the history of Detroit. People used to see our red and gold coming and the fight was over."

Those colors became the symbol of the inferno he created in Kronk's basement, for Emanuel Steward always believed in heat. It's what he loved most in fighters, and it was the environment he believed spawned the best boxers. So every day he would crank up the temperature in that basement to 100 degrees or more, even in the dead of winter.

With the bottom of a swimming pool pressing down from above, that heat created a stiflingly humid environment that produced fit fighters and an atmosphere of aggression.

This was not a place for recreation. If you went there, you were sweating by the time you got out of your car or off the bus. Kronk was a place where people melted or were molded.



Emanuel Steward helped Wladimir Klitschko evolve from a vulnerable heavyweight to a dominating one. *Image: AFP-Getty*

At the bottom of the stairs was a long, ominous corridor and at the end of it a metal door painted red. The brass door knob was hot to the touch. On that door were written eight words that made you a promise: "This Door has led many to Pain Fame."

So it did for Emanuel Steward and many of his fighters, beginning in 1977 when he turned Hearns and Goodwin, a hard-nosed light heavyweight, pro and began to risk his own money to promote them around Detroit.

His first card was the night after Thanksgiving, 1977. It drew around 2,000 people. Hearns and Goodwin both won by knockout and Kronk was on its way with Steward in the driver's seat.

Kronk became synonymous with everything that's good about boxing. Heart and soul. True grit not bullshit. Fighting not fencing. Kronk's red and gold colors grew to be feared and respected, opponents often succumbing to them before the fighters wearing them arrived. But the early years were not easy for Steward, who would drive his fighters around the Midwest to tournaments and small pro shows, the back of his old jalopy littered with greasy wrappers from the hamburgers they shared.

Many of those fighters lived with Steward off and mostly on. He cooked for them. He trained them. He managed them. In many cases he raised them. Once in the early days he even sold his watch to pay for gas to get them to another arena where they just might make a name for themselves.

That is a far cry from the Steward the world knew later in his life, after he'd been elected to the International Boxing Hall of

Fame in 1996 and worked for the past 11 years as ringside analyst for HBO while continuing to train some of the biggest names in boxing. But in many ways the guy in the basement was who he always was.

Steward was a man who raised fighters, not just trained them. That was true whether they were street kids from Detroit or resurrection jobs like Lewis and Klitschko, who both came to him after their careers foundered.

He loved to tell the story of the first time he brought Lewis, a talented but sometimes phlegmatic heavyweight, to Kronk to spar. Lewis went laconically about his business, as he sometimes did, and shortly two kids, maybe 10 or 11, were standing outside the ropes staring at Lewis wearing gloves bigger than they were.

One finally snarled, "Hey, Big Man, if you don't want to fight get the (expletive) out of the ring so we can go to work!"

Lewis was stunned. Manny smiled. That was the ethos of Kronk. Fight night was a war for most fighters. Every day was a war for Kronk fighters.

Steward had come to train Lewis first by beating him. In 1994, Steward completed one of the great transformations in boxing history when he took a journeyman former sparring partner named Oliver McCall, who battled alcohol and drug problems much of his career, and got him into the best shape of his life.

He did it first by telling McCall what a great singer he was. He then trained him by day and let him sing in a club he owned in downtown Detroit at night. Thus occupied, McCall kept himself busy without the usual vices.

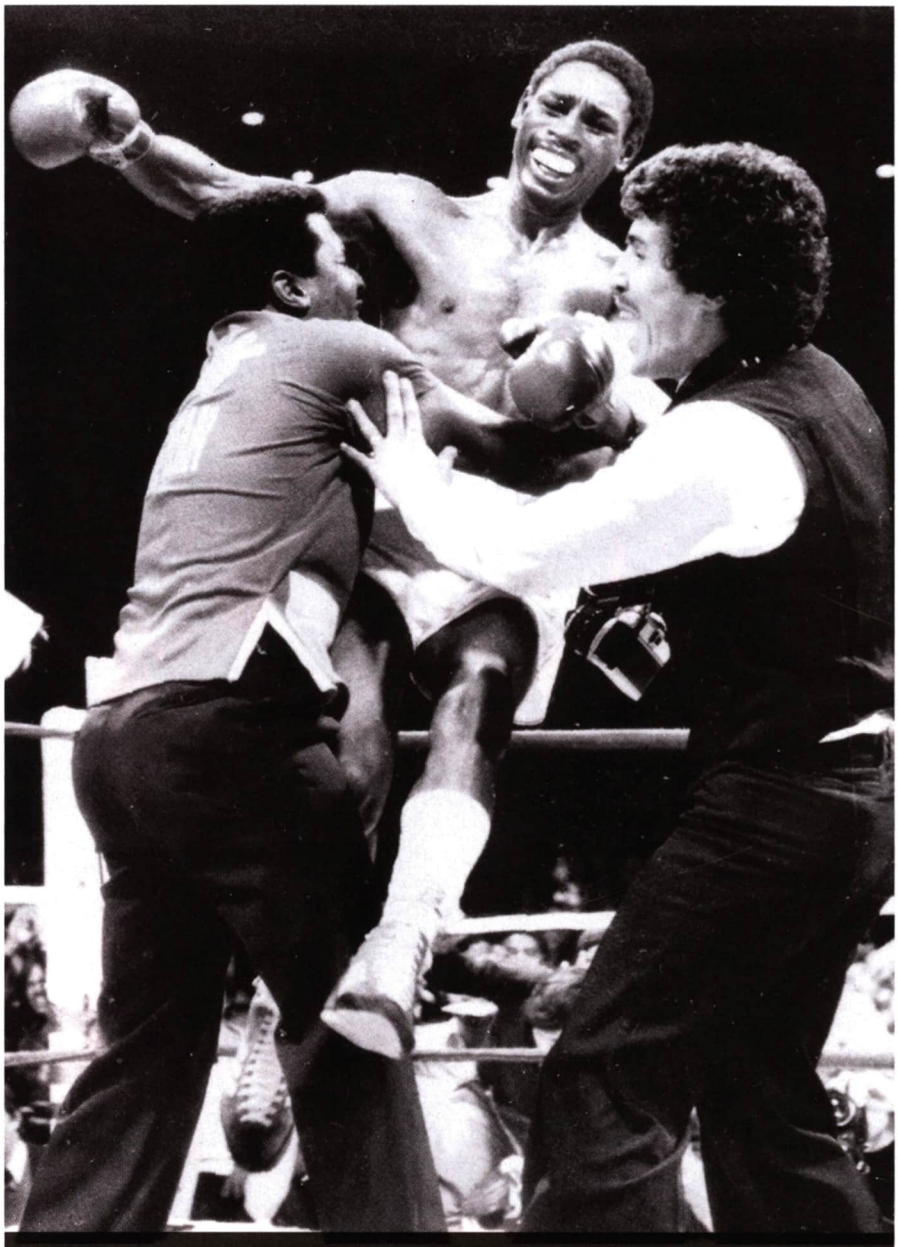


Image: THE RING

That's Emanuel Steward on the left, celebrating after Hilmer Kenty stopped Ernesto Espana to win the WBA lightweight title in 1980. Kenty was the first of Steward's fighters to win a major title.

He then took McCall to a private spa well outside London for final preparations. It was the kind of place people like Elizabeth Taylor would go to drop 20 pounds. It was also far enough from London that McCall avoided his deadly vices.

Whatever went on there, McCall KO'd Lewis 31 seconds into the second round after a stirring pre-fight speech from Steward littered with epithets and pleadings. Some 2½ years later Steward was in Lewis' corner when he stopped McCall to regain the title he would hold for all but one fight the rest of his career.

One of the first things he did with Lewis was to change his shoes. Later he would perfect his defense and take him dancing to make him less lumbering. But before anything, he made him

Image: THE RING

One of Emanuel Steward's proudest accomplishments was his induction into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 1996.

discard his traditional black boxing boots for white ones under a theory few others would have considered.

"You can't feel quick in black shoes," Steward explained. Made sense to me and more importantly to Lewis, who, though never a "Dancing With the Stars" finalist, would become a well-balanced and utterly destructive boxing machine on Steward's watch.

"I'm completely devastated by the passing of my long time friend, mentor and trainer ...," Lewis said in a statement. "Manny has helped me get through some of the biggest fights in my career and I only regret that I couldn't return the favor and see him through his biggest fight.

"It is with a heavy heart that the realization of what I hoped were just rumors is now in fact true. Manny always told me I was the best, but the truth is, he was the best and I'm grateful, privileged and honored to be counted among his many historic successes."

Steward went 16-1-1 with Lewis and 16-1 with Klitschko, who was sadly preparing for his Nov. 10 title defense against Mariusz Wach in Europe without Steward in his corner for the first time in eight years. Steward had turned around what appeared to be Klitschko's fading career despite the fact that in their first fight together, Klitschko was knocked out by Lamon Brewster. Once again Steward was starting from the bottom up.

Many trainers, especially ones new to a fighter, would not have survived that April 10, 2004, defeat. But Klitschko was wise beyond his years. He understood that loss was the residue of past training failures, not Steward's doing.

Slowly Steward turned Klitschko into arguably the most formidable heavyweight champion of his era, winning the title back two years later, successfully defending it 12 times in mostly dominating fashion and avenging the Brewster loss by forcing him to quit on his stool after six rounds.

Steward was often blunt with his fighters, once telling Klitschko in fiery fashion the hard truth of his situation. As Klitschko was coasting along late in a title defense, Steward admonished him in the corner, saying he seemed content to win "another bullshit decision" before he jumped up and knocked Eddie Chambers cold.

"It is not often that a person in any line of work gets a chance to work with a legend," Klitschko said after Steward's death. "Well, I was privileged enough to work with one for almost a decade. I will miss our time together; the long talks about boxing, the world, and life itself. Most of all I will miss our friendship."

All and all, Steward went 34-2-1 in heavyweight title fights, but that is not what him famous either. What made Emanuel Steward were the guys like Andy Lee, the middleweight contender and 2004 Irish Olympian who signed with him after the Athens Games and had lived with him since coming to Detroit in 2006 at 21 to turn professional.

When Lee was to fight Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. on June 16 in his first title try, Steward was in Austria training Klitschko but flew to El Paso for 48 hours to be in his corner. Although Lee was stopped in the seventh round, defeat didn't shake their relationship or Lee's faith in Steward.

"I will sorely miss him, not just on a professional level but as a very close friend," Lee said. "He was great company and very generous to me, giving me the opportunity to make the transition from the amateur ranks in Ireland to the professional game in the US.

"It was an education to be around Emanuel and for him to be my boxing mentor at the Detroit Kronk gym. For a young lad from Limerick he took me under his wing and gave me an opportunity that other boxers could only dream about. We often traveled together spending time at the likes of Wladimir Klitschko, Miguel Cotto and Jermain Taylor training camps.

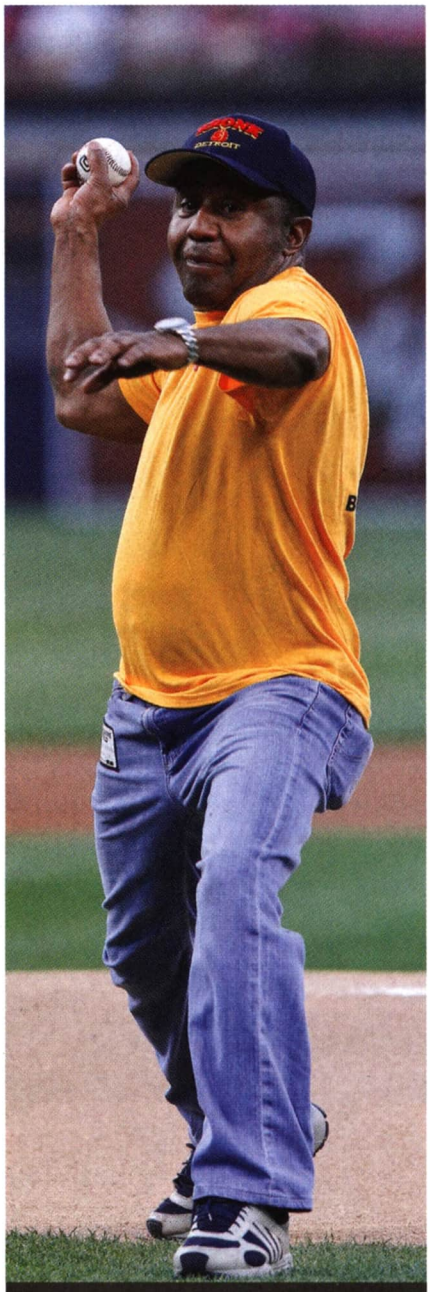


Image: Lenny Ignelzi-Associated Press

Emanuel Steward was fit enough to throw out the first pitch at a Rockies-Padres game in May. He was gone less than six months later.

"We also went to all the top fights and Emanuel would introduce me to all the different boxing figures and personalities. He was a fountain of knowledge and taught me not just about boxing but also about life. His passing has left a great void."

Emanuel Steward was wise about boxing and wiser about people. He understood what made fighters tremble and what helped them transcend their fears. Most important, he understood what made them human and never lost sight of that.

Sept. 16, 1981, was the saddest of his life. That's the night Hearns was stopped in the 14th round by Sugar Ray Leonard. Two days earlier, on the cover of Sports Illustrated, the fight had been called "The Showdown" and beneath that tell-all headline was a glowering Hearns. Next to it were the words, "Better Pray, Sugar Ray."

By then Tommy Hearns was "The Hit Man," but he could just as easily have been "The Man Emanuel Built." To see him draped over the ropes, beaten after a glorious night in which Hearns was outboxing Leonard to the point Leonard's trainer, Angelo Dundee, told him late in the fight, "You're blowing it, son, you're blowing it."

That loss broke Steward's heart as much as Hearns', but there he was by his side, lifting a late-night glass of Cristal with pride in his heart and sadness in his eyes and doing for Hearns what he did for so many Detroit kids for over 40 years.

He put his arm around him and said, "You can do it."

As it turned out he could. So could Emanuel Steward. ■

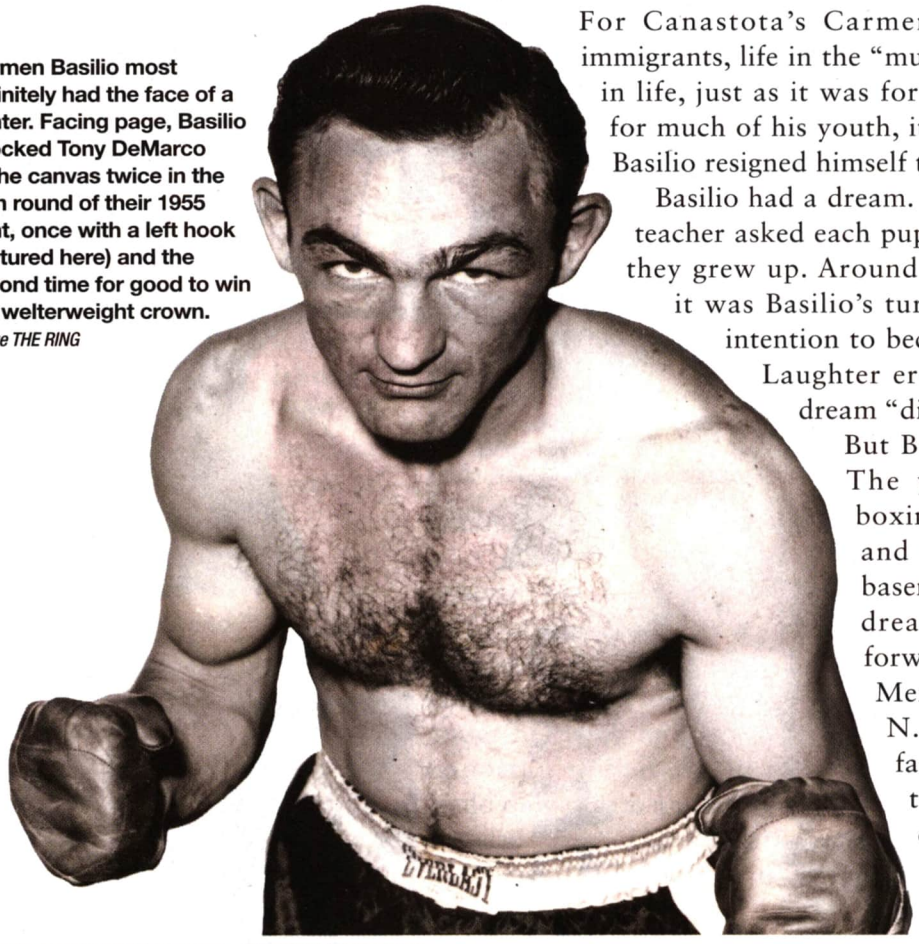
Emanuel Steward was one of the warmest people in boxing, a wonderful character trait that is captured in this photo.
Image: Kerstin Joensson-Associated Press

FOREVER THE CHAMP

CARMEN BASILIO, A NATIVE OF CANASTOTA, N.Y., WILL ALWAYS BE A HERO IN HIS HOMETOWN

By: **Jeff Brophy**

Just north of Canastota, in upstate New York, sits acre upon acre of nutrient-rich topsoil known to locals as the "muck lands." The jet-black dirt provides a fertile bed for vegetables – particularly onions – to grow in abundance. And producing onions was a way of life for many generations of families in the quaint village of 5,000. There was nothing easy about life on the farm; long hours of backbreaking, unforgiving work were required to tend the fields. This form of toil developed an old-school work ethic where you did the job until it was finished, no matter how much the muscles in your weary legs, back and arms told you to stop. Suffice to say, there was no time for complaining.

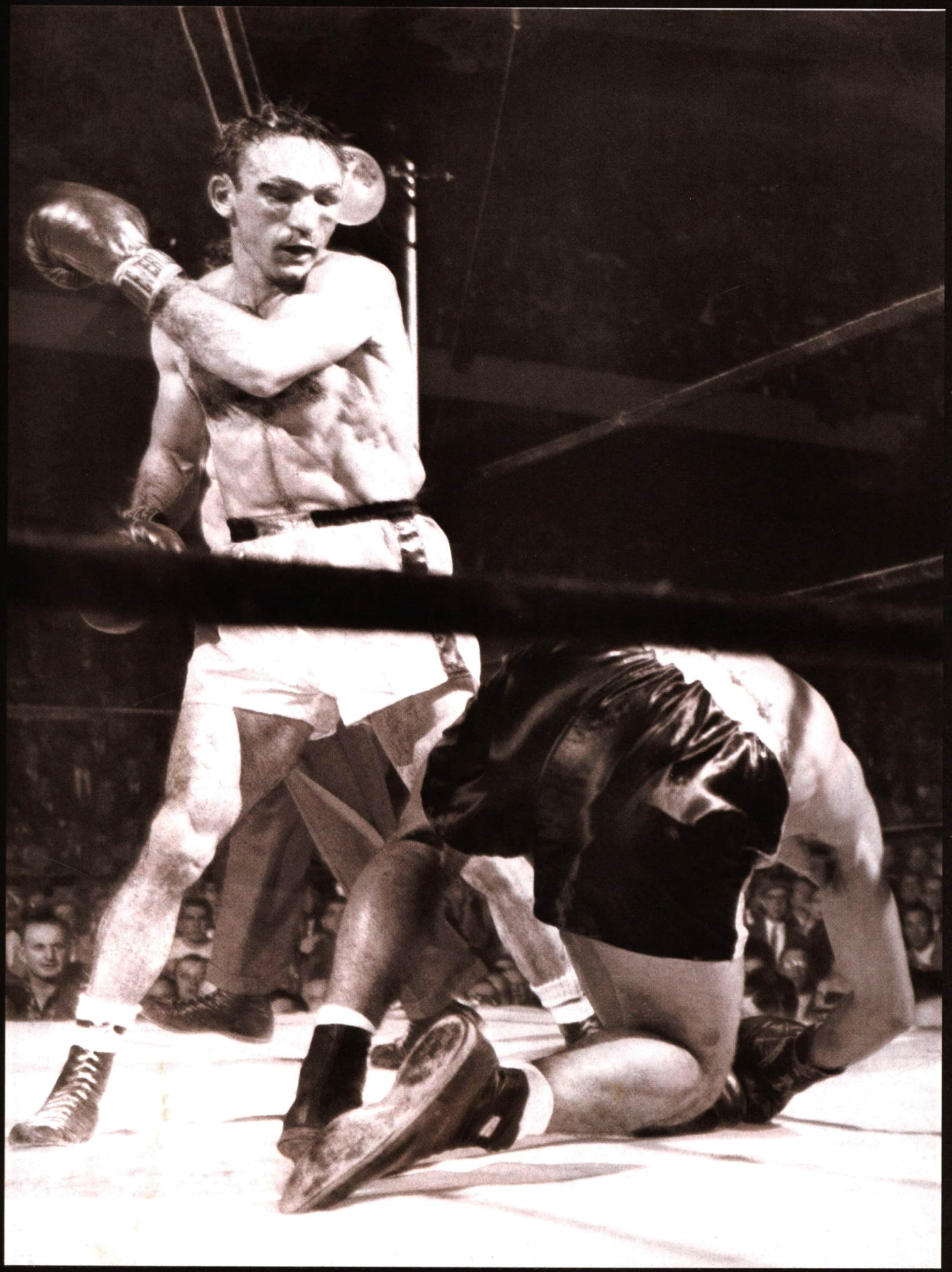


Carmen Basilio most definitely had the face of a fighter. Facing page, Basilio knocked Tony DeMarco to the canvas twice in the 12th round of their 1955 fight, once with a left hook (pictured here) and the second time for good to win the welterweight crown.
Image THE RING

For Canastota's Carmen Basilio, the son of Italian immigrants, life in the "muck lands" appeared to be his lot in life, just as it was for so many before and after. And for much of his youth, it was. But that didn't mean that Basilio resigned himself to the onion fields forever.

Basilio had a dream. In a grade school classroom, the teacher asked each pupil what they wanted to be when they grew up. Around the room they went and when it was Basilio's turn, he proudly declared his full intention to become a world boxing champion. Laughter erupted. The teacher deemed his dream "disgusting."

But Basilio would get the last laugh. The young man, who was given boxing gloves by his father at age 6 and boxed with his brothers in the basement, made up his mind that the dream would become reality. Fast forward to June 10, 1955, at the War Memorial Auditorium in Syracuse, N.Y., where the one-time onion farmer and former Marine reached the apex of the welterweight division when he annexed the crown from the tough-as-nails



champion Tony DeMarco with an unforgettable 12th-round stoppage. The dream was realized.

To legions of fans around the world, the new champion was "The Upstate Onion Farmer," one of the shining stars of the Golden '50s. But in his hometown, he was simply Carmen or "Champ." The village was bursting with pride as one of its own made it to the top. It was as if each resident was the champ. "We did it" was a common refrain echoed throughout town. Barbershops, diners, bowling alleys and grocery stores had photos of their hero proudly hanging on their walls. Parades were held in his honor.

"While 'we won' is an expression frequently used by fans after a World Series of Super Bowl victory, the connection with the athletes is rarely a personal one. When Carmen Basilio earned a boxing title, he was truly OUR champ," said Canastota native and long-time Basilio friend Ross Stagnitti. "Carmen bowled on our alleys, attended our Little League banquets, played softball in our parks and frequented our downtown coffee shops."

And Basilio's ring achievements were far from over. Another reign as welterweight champion came before yet another dream came true, this time to win a world title in Yankee Stadium. On Sept. 23, 1957, outweighed by 6½ pounds, Basilio walked out of the Yankee dugout and bested Sugar Ray Robinson for the middleweight crown in THE RING Magazine Fight of the Year. It was the third of five – yes, five – consecutive RING Fights of the Year (1955-59) in which he battled.

His Hall of Fame career ended in 1961 with a record of 56-16-7 (27 knockouts) and a hard-earned reputation as one of boxing's all-time action stars. The names of boxers he registered victories over reads like a who's who of legends: Ike Williams, Lew Jenkins, Gasper Ortega, Art Aragon, Don Jordan, Gil Turner, Johnny Saxton and Billy Graham, to name just a few.

Accolades and praise were heaped on the two-division king. He was named RING Fighter of the Year in 1957 and awarded the Hickok Award as 1957's "Pro Athlete of the Year." Appearances on The Ed Sullivan Show, The Steve Allen Plymouth Show and The Mike Wallace Interview followed. His battle-scarred face graced the cover of *Sports Illustrated*, *Life* and *Sport* magazines.

But what endeared Basilio to the Village of Canastota then and now goes beyond his incredible fistic achievements. It was the manner in which he went about it that inspired an entire community. The quintessential overachiever, Basilio got more

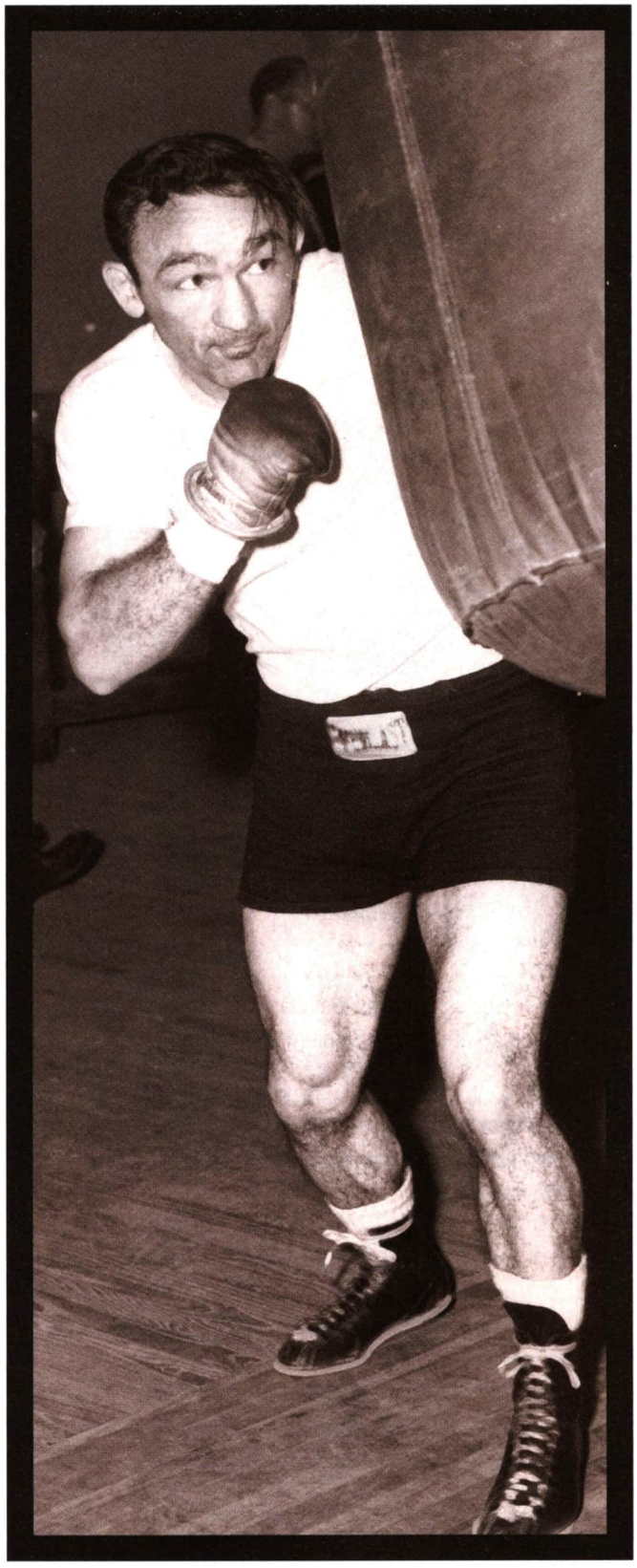


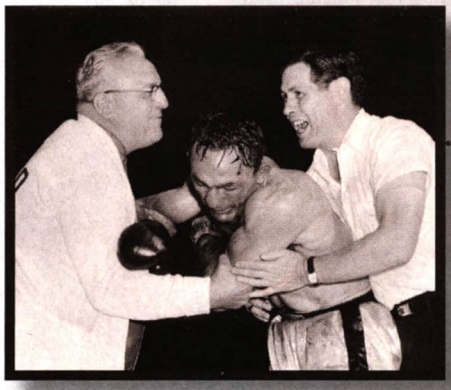
Image: THE RING

The iconic boxing photo on the facing page shows Carmen Basilio immediately after his 1958 rematch with Sugar Ray Robinson, who avenged a loss from the previous year by narrowly outpointing his one-eyed foe to regain the middleweight championship. Above, Basilio was known for his unusual stamina, the product of hard work during his training camps.

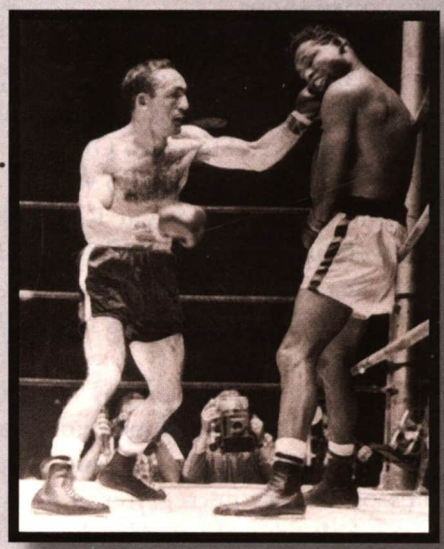
MR. EXCITEMENT

Carmen Basilio took part in five consecutive RING Fights of the Year between 1955 and 1959, a feat that has never been equaled. Here is a look at those fights:

1955 – Rallies to stop Tony DeMarco in the 12th round of a battle he was losing on Nov. 30 at the Boston Garden. It was the first defense of the welterweight title he took from DeMarco five months earlier.



1956 – Basilio lost his title to Johnny Saxton by a controversial decision on March 14 but, in the Fight of the Year, regains it by stopping Saxton in nine rounds on Sept. 12 at the War Memorial Auditorium. Basilio is pictured crying with joy afterward.



1957 – Defeats the great Sugar Ray Robinson by a split decision to take Robinson's middleweight championship on Nov. 23 at Yankee Stadium.

1958 – Robinson regains the title with a split-decision victory on March 25 at Chicago Stadium in Chicago.

1959 – Is stopped by Gene Fullmer in the 14th round for the vacant middleweight title on Aug. 28 at the Cow Palace in Daly City, Calif.

MOST TIMES IN RING FIGHT OF YEAR

6 – Muhammad Ali (Doug Jones, 1963; Sonny Liston, 1964; Joe Frazier, 1971; George Foreman, 1974; Frazier 1975; Leon Spinks 1978)

5 – CARMEN BASILIO (Tony DeMarco, 1955; Johnny Saxton, 1956; Ray Robinson, 1957; Ray Robinson, 1958; Gene Fullmer, 1959)

4 – George Foreman (Frazier, 1973; Ali, 1974; Ron Lyle, 1976; Jimmy Young, 1977)

4 – Joe Frazier (Jerry Quarry, 1969; Ali, 1971; Foreman, 1973; Ali, 1975)

4 – Arturo Gatti (Gabriel Ruelas, 1997; Ivan Robinson, 1998; Micky Ward, 2002; Ward, 2003)

3 – Rocky Graziano (Freddie Cochrane, 1945; Tony Zale, 1946; Zale, 1947)

3 – Rocky Marciano (Jersey Joe Walcott, 1952; Roland LaStarza, 1953; Ezzard Charles, 1954)

3 – Micky Ward (Emanuel Augustus, 2001; Gatti, 2002; Gatti, 2003)

3 – Tony Zale (Graziano, 1946; Graziano, 1947; Marcel Cerdan, 1948)

2 – 15 tied

Images: THE RING and The Associated Press

Image: Jeff Julian

Carmen Basilio and his former trainer, Angelo Dundee (left), talked about old times recently. They both passed away in 2012.

out of his 5-foot-6½-inch frame than he should have thanks to the intangibles – heart, grit and dogged determination. If he was on the losing end of a bout, he took his lumps and kept looking for a way to win, never looking for a way out. His drive undoubtedly was learned from long hours on the "muck lands." A man of devout faith, in victory he would often kneel in prayer at bout's end to offer his thanks. His work ethic fostered an overwhelming sense that if he can do it, so can I. His success propelled others to pursue success in various endeavors – be it in the ring like his nephew Billy Backus, who followed his uncle's footsteps and became welterweight king, or to a grateful group of community enthusiasts that wanted to give boxing a permanent home to call its own by creating the International Boxing Hall of Fame.

Since the Hall of Fame's opening in 1989, Basilio welcomed boxing greats and fans alike from around the world to his hometown with open arms.

"Carmen was the best known and most famous native son in community history. He gave credibility to the Boxing Hall of Fame in its formative years with his participation and support," said Mike Milmoe, editor of the *Canastota Bee Journal* newspaper during Basilio's career.

The character Basilio displayed outside of the ring also resonated with Canastotans of all walks of life. No matter the level of fame he achieved, the praise never inflated his ego. He remained the humble man born in a modest two-story home on Main Street in Canastota. Always approachable, he never denied a photo or autograph request, was quick with a joke or aplayful jab to the ribs. The champ treated everyone – prince or pauper – with respect. When biographer Gary Yeomans, author of 2007's *The Onion Picker* asked Basilio if he'd ever been approached about throwing a fight, Basilio responded by saying, "If ever anybody approached me about a bribe to throw a fight, I would have them arrested. First I would punch them in the nose, and then I would have them arrested." That

tells you all you need to know about the integrity and character of the man.

"I knew Carmen my whole life," said life-long Basilio friend and fellow Canastota native Anthony Digaspari. "When we were living down on the muck, we lived about a quarter mile away from the Basilio's and our families spent a lot of time together. Everybody thought it was wonderful having a hometown boy win a title. He certainly was an inspiration. And as far as our friendship, he never changed. He never felt like a big shot or anything like that. He was always Carmen to me."

Basilio passed away at age 85 on Nov. 7, 2012, at Rochester General Hospital in Rochester, N.Y., following complications from pneumonia. With his passing, a flurry of remembrances of the steely battler circulated throughout the boxing world. Much like one of Basilio's vaunted left hooks to the body, his passing brought Canastota to its collective knees. Basilio's impact on the village he called home cannot be overstated. No matter where life took him – and it took him all over the world – Canastota was always home. Those who grew up during his time experienced it first hand and have memories that have lasted their lifetime and beyond. Subsequent generations learned of his exploits and success from parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and friends. He will always be the small town boy who made good. For each and every person who has or will call Canastota home, Carmen Basilio will always be the "Champ."

"Wherever he lived or visited his heart was always in Canastota," said Milmoe. "He was a wonderful individual and our best community ambassador." ■

Carmen Basilio inspired the creation of the International Boxing Hall of Fame in his hometown of Canastota, N.Y. He was always among the most-popular figures during induction weekends. Canastota this year designated Basilio's birthplace as a historical site. *Images: Jeff Julian and IBHOF*

Jeff Brophy *is Media Relations Director for the International Boxing Hall of Fame and a lifelong resident of Canastota, N.Y.*

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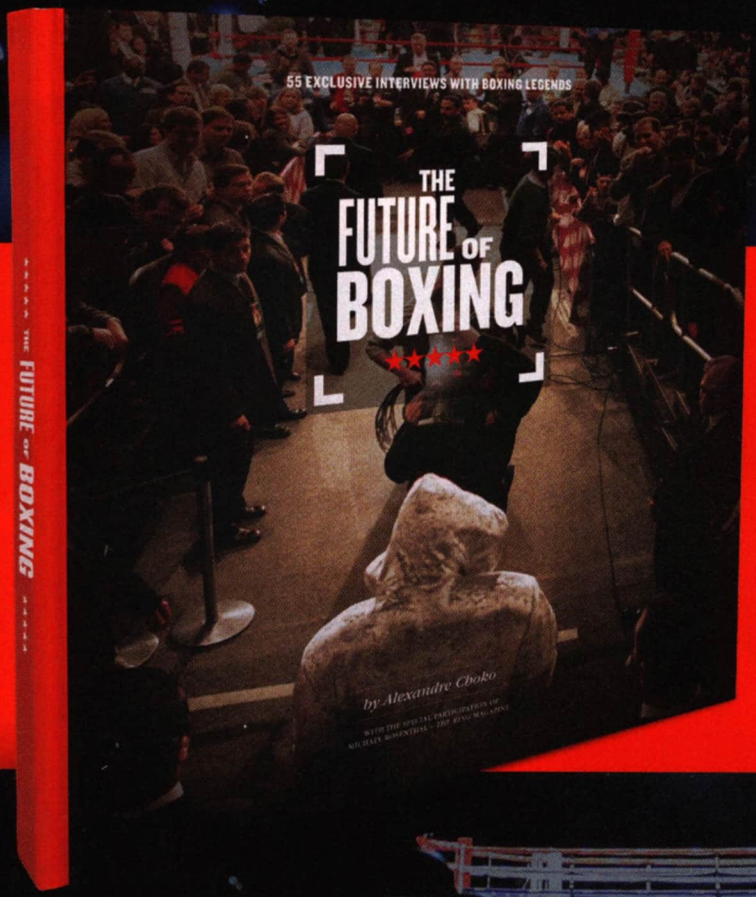

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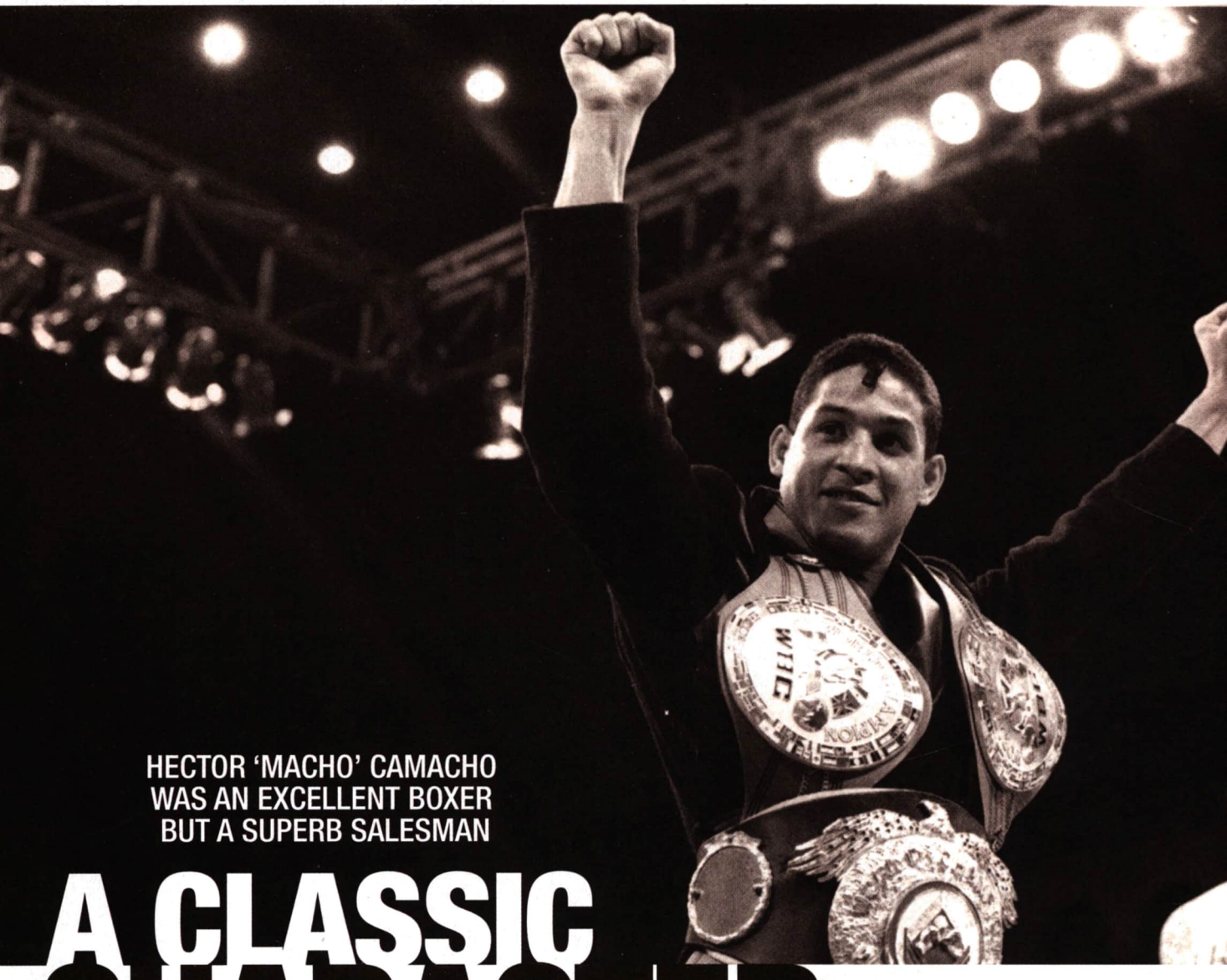


HECTOR 'MACHO' CAMACHO WAS AN EXCELLENT BOXER BUT A SUPERB SALESMAN

A CLASSIC CHARACTER

By: **Bernard Fernandez**

Oscar De La Hoya's words were eerily prophetic, like an epitaph written in advance of the tragedy so many people had anticipated for so long.

Less than a half-hour earlier, De La Hoya had retained his welterweight title by a one-sided unanimous decision over Hector "Macho" Camacho on Sept. 13, 1997, at Las Vegas' Thomas & Mack Center. The outcome was not a surprise, given that a faded Camacho, then 35, was making the last of his 13 appearances in a major title bout (he had eight more for lesser alphabet belts) and was well past his prime. More notable was the fact that the Golden Boy had knocked down Camacho in the ninth round, only the second time in a professional boxing career that stretched over 30 years and 88 bouts that the slick and pesky Puerto Rican southpaw had found himself in such an embarrassing position. The only previous occasion came on June 25, 1988, when, in his 32nd pro fight, Camacho was floored by Reyes Cruz.

Hopelessly behind on points and taking the sort of battering he seldom had had to endure, Camacho could have heeded his cornermen's entreaties to remain on his stool and not come out for the 11th and 12th rounds. But he was stubborn and proud, and determined to maintain his record

of never having been stopped inside the distance, a streak that would remain intact through what proved to be his final outing, a 10-round, unanimous-decision loss to Saul Duran on June 14, 2010, in Kissimmee, Fla.

"I was a bit frustrated, but that's the way Camacho fights," De La Hoya said of the clutch-and-grab tactics that enabled his opponent to make it through those last few torturous rounds. "If he knows he can't win, he tries to survive.

"He was taking punishment," De La Hoya continued. "This guy has a heart. You can't make him quit."

Unlike the brawlers and defensively deficient fighters who lacked his wondrous escape capabilities, Hector Camacho was seldom called upon to demonstrate he had a chin as stout as that fighting heart. But there is a difference between a gloved fist and a fired bullet. A roped-off swatch of canvas offers much more room to slip and move than does a seat in a parked car, where the Macho Man ultimately met his grisly if not wholly unexpected end.

On Nov. 24, four days after he was shot in the face in his hometown of Bayamon, Puerto Rico, by an assailant who had not been arrested as this story was written, Camacho – who had been declared brain-dead by attending physicians on Nov. 22 – was removed from life support with the consent of his grieving family. He was 50, but even at that advanced age there was some discussion of him attempting still another return to his unforgiving trade.

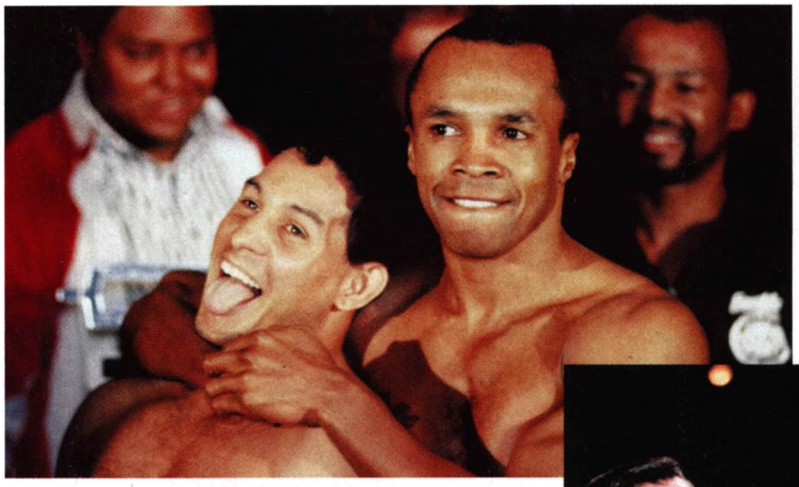
"We were talking comeback even though he was 50," said Steve Tannenbaum, a boxing agent who had represented Roberto Duran during the latter stages of a boxing career that had long since lost relevance. "I felt he was capable of doing it."

Images: THE RING and Holly Stein-Getty

Facing page, Hector Camacho was at the peak of his abilities when he defeated Vinny Pazienza by a unanimous decision in 1990. Above, Camacho became known as much for his outrageous outfits as his accomplishments in the ring.

Maybe Camacho, who had a history of drug and alcohol abuse, as well as of domestic violence, was considering another bid to reach back in time and recapture past glories. But lest anyone not take Tannenbaum seriously, remember that he is the guy who put another lusterless legend, Meldrick Taylor, into low-paying bouts after Taylor's speech had slurred and his reflexes had noticeably slowed. The notion of Camacho lacing up the gloves again was either delusional or an attempt by a flesh-peddler to wring another few bucks out of the dying embers of a client's celebrity. Either way, it is an all-too familiar tale.

This much, however, is sure. Had the always-chatty Camacho had an inkling his final chapter was in the process of being written, he surely would have orchestrated his exit to include at least one more outrageous sound bite and bizarre costume change, the better to re-stoke the public's interest in him. Boxing is a sport rife with self-promoters, but few have been as innovative at creating a marketable



Clockwise from top left, Hector Camacho knew how to have fun, as he demonstrated here with Ray Leonard; Camacho (left) won the WBC lightweight title when he outpointed Jose Luis Ramirez in 1985; Camacho outpointed Roberto Duran in 1996, one of his highest-profile victories; and Camacho and Julio Cesar Chavez have some laughs. *Images: THE RING*

persona that endured so long and so profitably.

"Over the years, people have said I'm crazy," Camacho once said. "And I am. Crazy like a fox. My act is a smart act. It sold lots of tickets."

Having relocated as a child with his family to the Spanish Harlem section of New York, Camacho soon dropped hints that he was crazy, in a manner of speaking, if not always like a fox. He was a problem student, constantly in trouble with school officials and the police in his high-crime neighborhood. He didn't learn to read English passably well until he was 15. He did so, he claimed, so that he could check out stories about himself in the newspapers after he attained what he was sure to be his inevitable stardom.

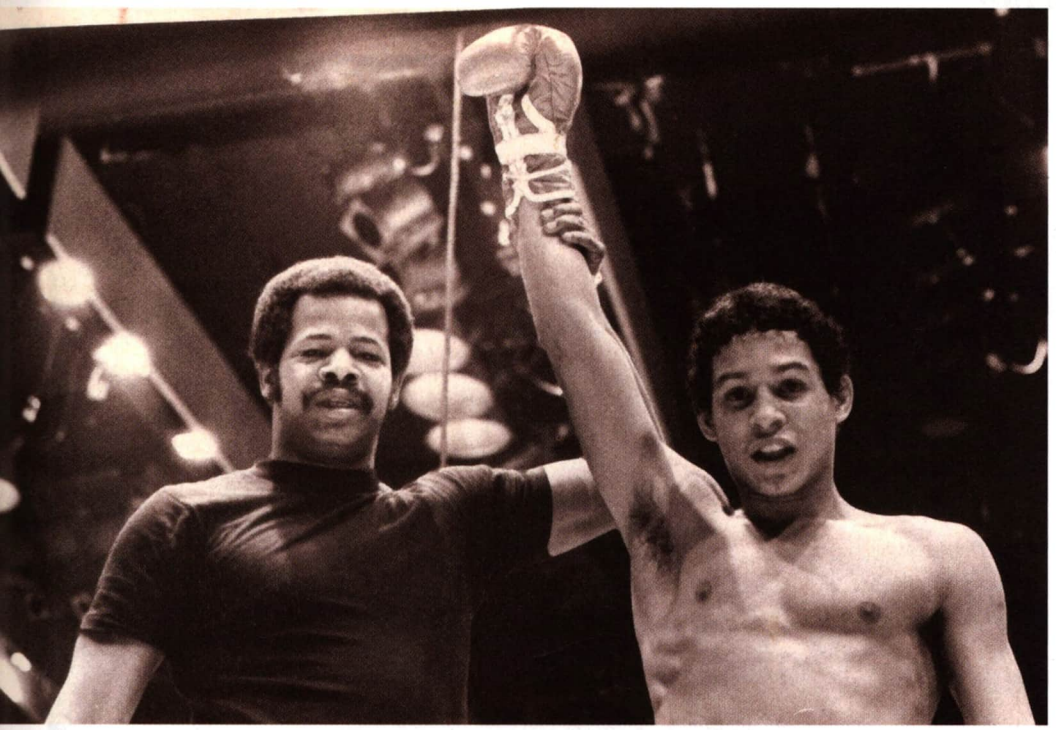
That uncompromising faith in himself was soon justified. In 1977 he won the first of his three consecutive New York Golden Gloves titles, his express route to the top temporarily detoured by a 3½-month prison sentence for grand theft auto. There would be more, and more serious, brushes with the law for one of boxing's most flamboyant, least disciplined superstars.

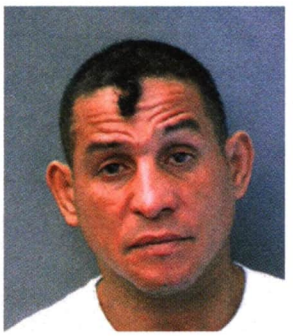
For years, the one person who had even a chance to rein in Camacho's hard-partying ways was Patrick Flannery, who worked 31 years in the New York City public school system in addition to performing many functions as his former student's adviser.

Flannery has a thousand stories of Camacho's resistance to toeing the straight-and-narrow, but one captures the essence of a man-child who liked to show off his moves on the dance floor as much as in the ring, even if some of those moves came in the wee hours during fight week when he should have been going to bed early and getting his rest.

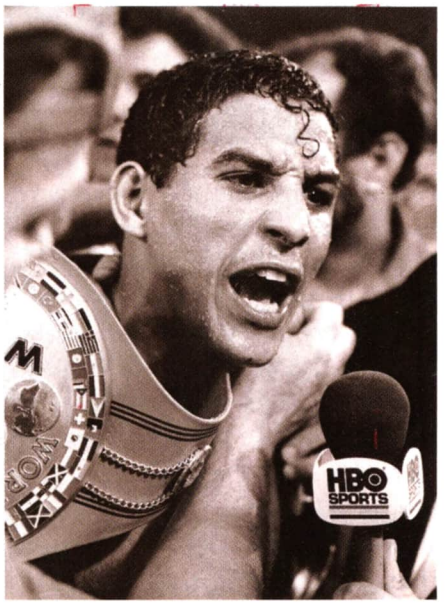
It seems that Camacho, who preferred to sleep in the nude, awoke in his hotel suite a few days before one of his fights, intent on heading down to the disco to boogie. But Flannery had hidden all his clothes, which he thought would deter Camacho. It didn't.

"He went out stark naked in the hall," Flannery said. "He went all the way to the elevator before I caught up with him and threw him a pair of pants."





Clockwise from top left, Camacho, with manager Billy Giles, celebrated after stopping Benny Llanos in his second pro fight in 1980; Camacho had his problems outside the ring, as this booking photo indicates; Camacho spoke his mind during interviews; in one of his greatest moments, Camacho retired the great Ray Leonard.
Images: Associated Press and THE RING

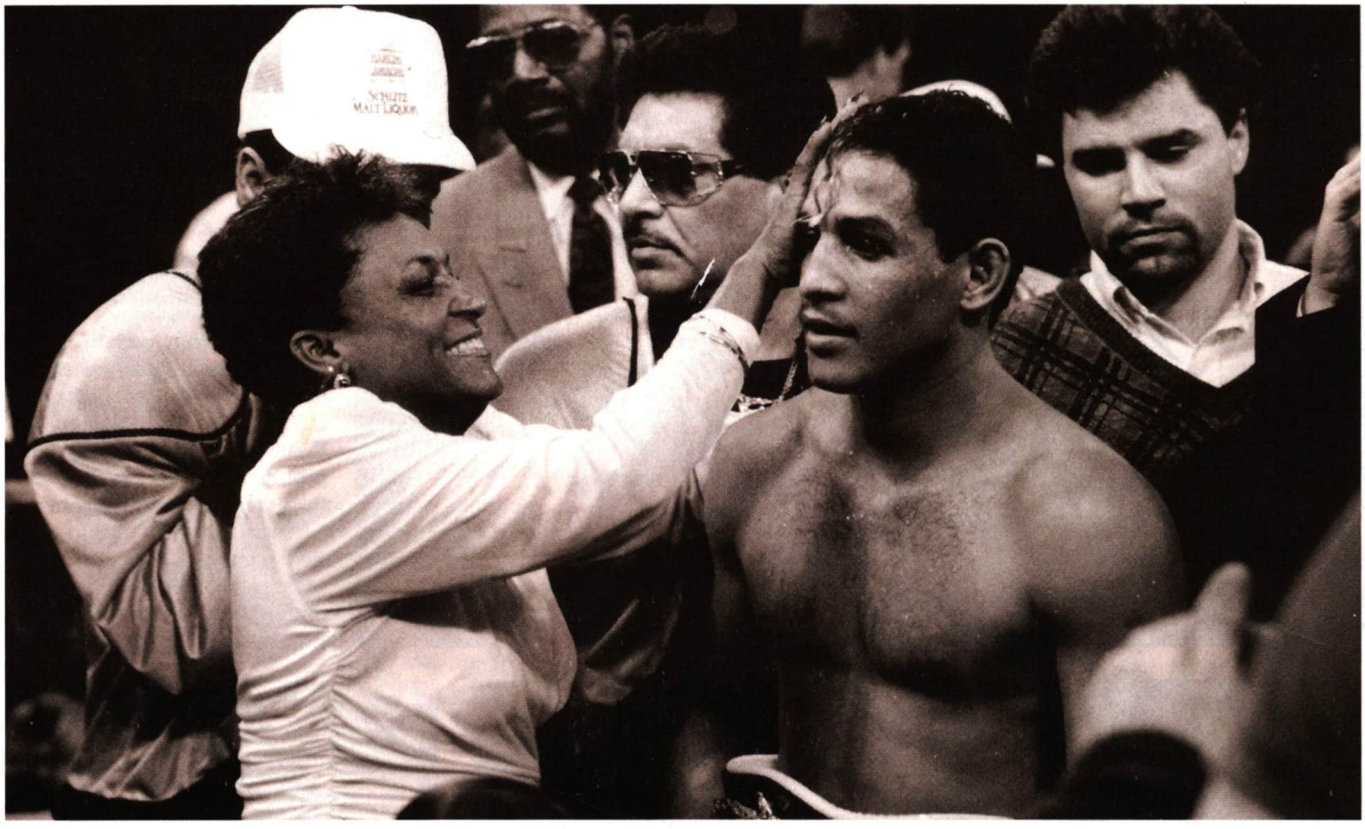


Not every observer appreciated Camacho's safety-first style, which was as technically brilliant as that of, say, Pernell Whitaker, except that this hot dog was coated in even more mustard. Before his Sept. 12, 1992, challenge of then-junior welterweight champ Julio Cesar Chavez at the Thomas & Mack, Camacho strutted into the arena during an undercard bout, clad in only a red, white and blue G-string, and goaded the pro-Chavez crowd with shouts of "It's Macho Time!" He exited to the sounds of boos, and later that night the spectators' bloodlust was satisfied when Chavez beat his exhibitionist tormentor by unanimous decision.

"When I do good, they boo me," Camacho said of the ease into which he slipped into the role of everyone's favorite villain. "When I do great, they boo me. If they don't boo me, I get mad. When I make love to my girlfriend, she boos me."

Clothes always were a big part of Camacho's routine. At various times, he came out for bouts clad as an Indian chief, matador, gladiator,

"When I do good, they boo me. When I do great, they boo me. If they don't boo me, I get mad. When I make love to my girlfriend, she boos me."



Roman centurion, and designer-loincloth Tarzan. The centurion outfit caused officials at Trump Plaza to gasp in astonishment, seeing as how it seemingly promoted a rival casino with a Roman motif just down the Atlantic City boardwalk. "I think he forgot just where it is he's fighting," the official said.

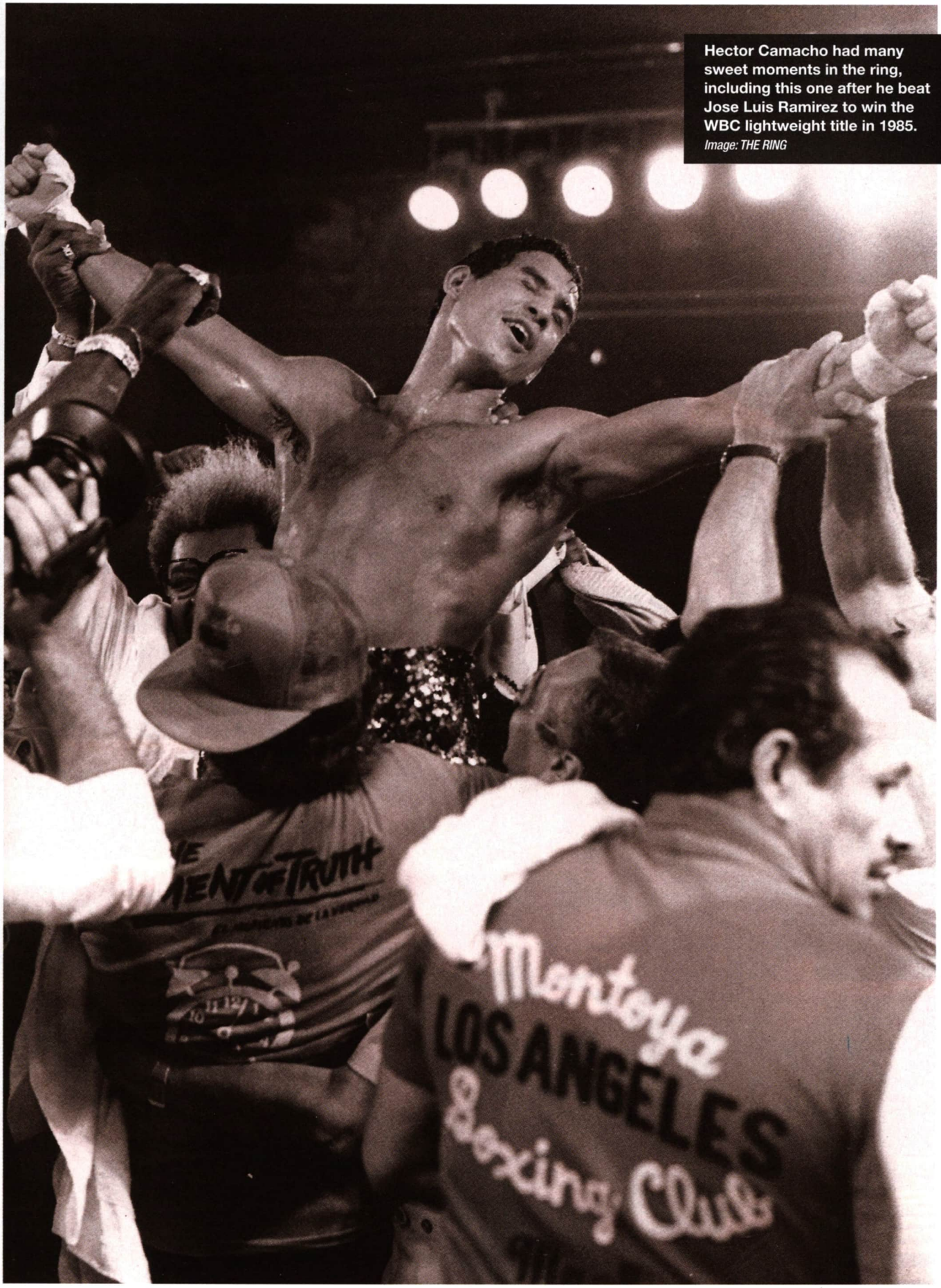
Camacho occasionally insisted that the shenanigans were all in good fun, meant to do nothing more than to hype that evening's fistic entertainment. "My personality has been misunderstood," he once said. "When people meet me face to face, they like me. And that surprises them, because they keep hearing all this crap about what a bad guy I'm supposed to be."

But the playful Camacho had a darker side. Prior to their divorce several years ago, Camacho's wife had twice filed domestic abuse charges against him, and he was facing a felony child-abuse count for allegedly picking up a teenage son, slamming him to the ground and stomping on him in March 2011. It should also be noted that the other man in Camacho's 2005 BMW at the time of the shooting, Adrian Mojica Moreno (who died at the scene), had nine bags of cocaine in his possession, with an open 10th bag in the vehicle.

Ecstasy and tragedy. Hector Camacho's mother Maria Matias was a common sight at his fights. Above, she played the role of mom after he beat Jose Luis Ramirez in 1985. Below, she mourned her son at his funeral on Nov. 27.
Images: THE RING and Ricardo Arduengo-Associated Press

Boxing always has come with blurry lines making it difficult to distinguish the good guys from the bad guys, maybe because there is a little bit of both in all of them. How history will come to regard the Macho Man has yet to be determined, but the feeling here is that his unique talent and personality will for the most part be recalled with fondness.

"He was just a kid looking for something," former featherweight champion Juan Laporte recalled of his friend. "The people around him didn't have the guts or strength to lead him in the right direction." ■



Hector Camacho had many sweet moments in the ring, including this one after he beat Jose Luis Ramirez to win the WBC lightweight title in 1985.
Image: THE RING

Alfredo Angulo needed only 56 seconds to stop Raul Casarez in his comeback fight Nov. 10 in Los Angeles.

Image: Harry How-Golden Boy-Getty

DOGGEDLY FORWARD

ALFREDO ANGULO BEGINS THE NEXT CHAPTER IN HIS CAREER WITH A QUICK KO AND WITHOUT LOOKING BACK

By: **Bart Barry**

Alfredo Angulo went directly through Raul Casarez, a junior middleweight from Texas who, on Nov. 10 in Los Angeles' Staples Center, drew the unenviable assignment of being the Mexican's first opponent in a year and five days. In the opening minute of their match both men initiated left hooks to each other's chins, but Angulo's – harder for being better leveraged and crossing less space – landed first. Casarez's body continued rightward while his head snapped left. He dropped on the blue mat. The full 10-count was unnecessary.

Angulo, nicknamed "Perro (Dog)" and adorned in customary black and silver-trimmed trunks, his face covered in a full but thin beard, his black hair in tight braids swaying on the back of his neck, shuffled away and began embracing cornermen. He walked to the nearest section of ropes and made a theatrical bow to his fans. Then catharsis came, and one of boxing's baddest practitioners began to sob like a child, burying his wet, red face in the chest of trainer Virgil Hunter.

"Many asked me about nervousness before my fight, and I can say sincerely that I was not nervous at any moment," Angulo says about the lead-up to his match in Staples Center. "But in the moment I walked to the ring, it was very emotional, I wanted to cry. But I had to endure it.

"After the fight, I could not."

Image: Naoki Fukuda

Angulo's swift demolition of Casarez was cold and calculated but it was an emotional night for the Mexican slugger. Image: Naoki Fukuda

Angulo has a sleepy demeanor whenever he is not fighting. His light face is long and his dark eyes rarely appear wide open. His voice is quiet and often unclear. Some of this may be an affectation, or even the result of what concussive blows Angulo makes a professional habit of absorbing. Certainly much of it, though, is a cultural resignation properly expressed in a Spanish phrase common in Mexico: *Así es la vida* (Such is life), a detachment that served him well in the uncertainty and unpleasantness that came in 2012.

Alfredo Angulo hadn't had his hand raised in victory in almost 15 months.
Image: Naoki Fukuda

"With me, really, the bad things are kept behind," Angulo says. "They do not return. I do not turn my head backwards. I continue on a path forwards."

Angulo fights as he philosophizes, stomping ahead in pursuit of other men's attrition. He collects punches perhaps less gladly than it appears but certainly more gladly than most men, and even most boxers. Possessed of certain power in both fists, and especially his left hand, Angulo makes the puncher's wager: You hit me, I'll hit you, and whatever comes will come. There is a common misunderstanding about attrition fighters like Angulo who show a large willingness to suffer other men's punches: because their approach is simple to a point of brutality, others – detractors and supporters alike – can mistake them for simpletons. Angulo is no simpleton.

"(Virgil Hunter) has reminded me of things a person knows but forgets," he says of his new trainer from Oakland, Calif. "I believe he sees what I am missing to continue transcending and learning."

Angulo has a sense of irony expressed in a quick, surprisingly high-pitched laugh that comes more often than his ringside demeanor anticipates. He is friendlier, too, and self-deprecating. There are traces of what obfuscation every modern athlete learns to employ with writers; he keeps a distance between his words and truth the way publicists instruct. Asked about his former promoter, Gary Shaw, with whom he had a somewhat public falling-out, he is reticent, citing karma and his certainty that "the man knows what he did."

Volume punchers, men who wade easily into the storm of other men's blows, moving simply forward and throwing wherever they can, are, counterintuitively, some of boxing's most-complicated souls. They are men who realized, on their own or by the inventories of others, their physical limitations. They are rarely the quickest of hand or foot, or the hardest of punchers. They are introspective men who determined the safest place for them was on other fighters' chests, a spot that neutralizes both men's power but affords the busier one a psychological advantage. These men of the simplest combat style are intellectually tougher, usually, than their more physically gifted foes. They relish the opportunity to rub against another's fighting spirit and dull it.

Image: Tom Hogan-Hoganphotos

Alfredo Angulo honored the late Emanuel Steward before his fight against Raul Casarez.

Attrition fighters are in greatest peril when they encounter one of their own. Such was the case for Angulo in the second loss of his career, a preternaturally brutal sixth-round TKO by Texas junior middleweight James Kirkland, a man Angulo felled and had nearly unconscious in the opening round. But after taking Kirkland to the edge of his second first-round knockout loss in four fights, Angulo was ill-prepared for what came next.

"It is something that disgracefully happened," Angulo says of his mental state for that November 2011 match. "Very serious personal problems. My body was there, but my head was not."

Buoyed by his countrymen in that Cancun ring and briefly incited by the effect of his punches, Angulo over-pressed his advantage, outpaced his conditioning and found himself

dead-legged and breathless, a drowning man whose head cruelly sunk lower even as his shoulders burned from flailing. He continued to rise from his stool and swim wearily forward, absorbing more flush blows from Kirkland than anyone had before or ever should. When the end came, with referee Johnny Callas' merciful intercession two minutes into the sixth round, Angulo was still on his feet but utterly damaged.

"(Nacho) Beristain is a great friend of mine, really good people," Angulo says of the celebrated Mexican trainer who worked his corner for the Kirkland fight. "He did me a favor in helping me, but sincerely, I believe he would have done more if he were not focused on (Juan Manuel) Marquez's fight with Manny Pacquiao (a week later)."

Seventy-four days after his fight with Kirkland, Angulo's life worsened considerably. He entered a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Service Processing Center in El Centro, Calif., 100 miles east of San Diego and 15 miles north of the Mexican state of Baja California Norte and Angulo's hometown of Mexicali, expecting a three-day exercise that would get him a current visa and clean slate. He would remain for seven months, and lived constantly with the uncertainty and threats that he might never leave.

"It is something very confusing that I do not want to return to," Angulo says about the process that saw him detained. "Now I cannot return to Mexico until my papers arrive. I do not know. I do not know how much time it is going to take. It could be six months or a year. But I have everything that I need to be here and stay."

Angulo remains unclear about his immigration status – though his achievement of an interim world title likely makes him eligible for special consideration as an elite athlete, and an O-1 visa. But if American immigration laws remain a mystery to him today, one can barely imagine the surprise they held in January 2012.

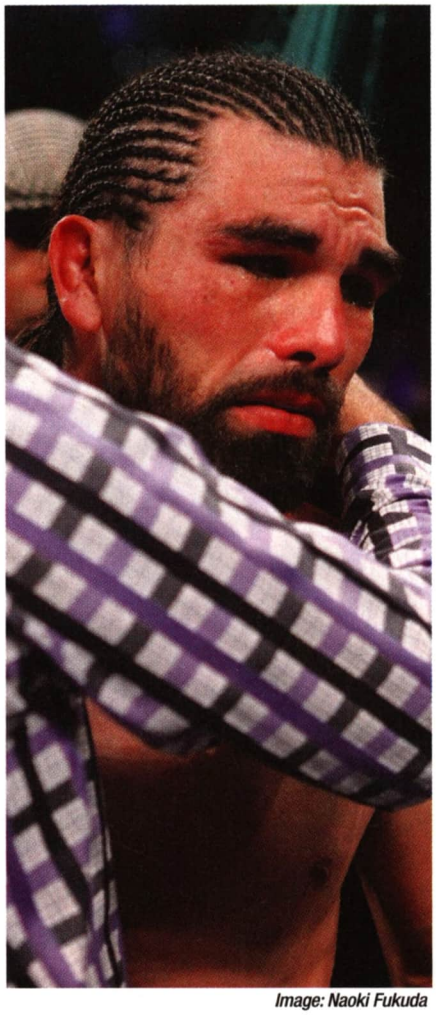


Image: Naoki Fukuda

"When I initiated my career, many fans did not approach me for an autograph or a photo. But for the boyish face I have, over time they have learned to approach. It pleases me greatly."

U.S. immigration law is a tangle of conflicting intentions and interests, and, like most cases, Angulo's is cloaked in partial information, rumor, conjecture and misunderstanding. Typically an immigration attorney will follow a favorite route through that tangle, and a client will offer only what autobiographical information they deem essential.

"About that, immigration, I do not have the remotest idea," Angulo says. "I do not understand immigration. I do not understand how it is. The lawyer is in charge of that. But I am not going to trust anything from the people who normally handle it."

This much is known: Alfredo Angulo is currently living in California, being a father to his young American daughter, Monday through Friday – "full-time," as he calls it, breaking from Spanish into English – and awaiting the arrival of a more permanent immigration status. He is interested in remaining in the U.S. and finding his way to residency and perhaps citizenship. How much others' professional interest in his immigration status relies on his continued excellence in a prizefighting ring, too, is a mystery of sorts to him. He doesn't let one thing affect another, though. He chooses to keep his life compartmentalized, which again suggests a man who is more complicated than his fighting style indicates, or his supporters might suspect.

"When I initiated my career, many fans did not approach me for an autograph or a photo," Angulo says, giggling, of a time when he wore a bejeweled dog collar, thick moustache and a glare on television. "But for the boyish face I have, over time they have learned to approach. It pleases me greatly." ■

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Image: Naoki Fukuda

Light heavyweight contender Nathan Cleverly of Wales (pictured here during his victory over Shawn Hawk in Los Angeles) wants to spend more time in the U.S. to work on his craft.

CLEVERLY'S BOXING EDUCATION

By: **Gareth A Davies, London**

Tom Jones, Vinnie Jones ... all that was missing was Catherine Zeta-Jones as Nathan Cleverly felt the full support of the Welsh Hollywood contingent on his debut stateside Nov. 10 in Los Angeles. Journeyman Shawn Hawk may not have been much of a test as Cleverly seeks to define himself as more than simply the World Boxing Organization 175-pound champion, but the trip across The Pond, he felt, was thoroughly worthwhile.

"It was great. It was also peculiar going over to the States not knowing who I would face on the night. But it has opened up my eyes to a new world out there," Cleverly told me at the British Boxing Board of Control dinner in west London. The sprinkling of stardust was much needed. Few will know – unless they have travelled there – that Cleverly's home town in Cefn Forest really is up in the mountains and valleys of Wales, a rugged place where old-fashioned values persist. Cleverly seeks the bright lights now, and knows he needs to get better still if he is to unify the belts. His view is that of the three current champions, Chad Dawson – slated to re-match Jean Pascal in March next year – remains the best of them. Behind the scenes, Cleverly's promoter, Frank Warren, aims to take the mathematics graduate into a unification contest with Tavoris Cloud first.

"I'd take any of the champions, in whatever order," said Cleverly. "But I'll let my promoter deal with that. Getting to the Wild Card Gym, seeing Freddie Roach, meant a lot to me. I've spoken to my dad [Vince, his trainer], and he'd be fine with me travelling to the States for a couple of months each year. I think it's key for me now to progress to mix and spar with the different styles there are in the U.S. – Puerto Rican, Mexican, the Floyd Mayweather style. The opportunity is there for me. I got on well with Freddie Roach, and I'd like to extend that relationship and work with him more."

DESPERATELY SEEKING WARD?

Another crossover is Carl Froch and his desire for a rematch with Andre Ward. Soon after defeating Yusaf Mack in Nottingham in three rounds to retain his IBF gong – a contest which felt like a ritual slaughter of the weight-drained Missourian in front of 8,000 baying fans – Froch explained that his raison d'etre for 2013 was a rematch with Ward. It had been a poor camp and a bad night against Ward. He was stale. Atlantic City had driven him to boredom. Now promoter Eddie Hearn and Froch want to bring Ward over for a stadium fight at The City Ground in Nottingham. It would be a great spectacle and draw a huge crowd. But why should Ward come to the U.K.? What would he have left to prove against Froch, whom he beat comprehensively first time around? Ward raised the stakes with a cheeky tweet just after Froch had disposed of Mack with two brutal body shots. "I fancy a trip to the UK," tweeted Ward. Was he teasing ? Probably. But if Hearn comes up with a big enough offer, and it would have to be around the seven-figure mark upwards in sterling, who knows? Have to say, though, my feeling is that the outcome would be the same as their first meeting. Ward has Froch's number.

BRITISH BOXING BOARD AWARDS DINNER

The British Boxing Board annual awards dinner, sponsored by Lonsdale, featured some interesting recipients and was attended by an impressive array of former champions. Overseas boxer of the year went to Carson Jones (it is an award for overseas boxers who have competed in the U.K.), while the Sportsmanship Award went to Johnny Eames, whose TKO Gym is situated upstairs in an old warehouse between scrap-metal merchants and car breakers [where cars are scrapped] in an industrial estate in East London.

Kevin Mitchell trains there, under the tutelage of Jimmy Tibbs and his son Mark, but Eames – once a nightclub owner and purveyor of a pirate radio station in the Acid House era – has done wonders for several boxers and

Image: Andrew Yates-AFP-Getty

The fans of Ricky Hatton were with him before – and after – his comeback fight in Manchester.

UNSHAKABLE BOND

The ghosts of Ricky Hatton's past came cascading back to haunt him as the 34-year-old Manchester boxer sought redemption, returning after a self-imposed 42-month absence. A ninth-round body shot from Vyacheslav Senchenko ended his career. Hatton was ahead on all three cards, but Senchenko was growing stronger with every round.

"I needed to know if I still had it, and I haven't got it," he said 60 minutes later at a news conference. He had given his all. It was emotional; moving. Hatton looked into a mirror and knew it was time.

Yet even when he was down in agony from the body shot, 20,000 fans in the Manchester Arena chanted that song which rings in all our ears: "There's Only One Ricky Hatton ..." Hatton's legacy is not only his world championship belts in two divisions, the 45 victories and the two defeats against the very best of his day in Floyd Mayweather Jr. and Manny Pacquiao, but the unique relationship and unshakeable bond with the blue collar men of England. Hatton is up there with Britain's most popular post-War boxers – Sir Henry Cooper, Frank Bruno, Joe Calzaghe, Chris Eubank, Nigel Benn, et al.

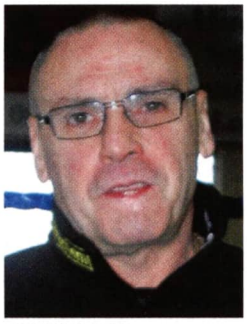
wants to extend his remit to be involved in coaching local schoolchildren.

When the pirate radio station was in its pomp, Richard Branson had contacted Eames wanting to create a partnership. Eames turned Branson down.

For the past 18 months or so, Johnny has had to take a step back from coaching because of a bout with cancer, which fortunately is in remission. Instead, he has concentrating on fighter management and organizing the TRAD TKO Annual Boxers and Celebrities Charity Football Tournament, in aid of the Indee Rose Trust, even while under treatment for cancer himself.

This tournament raised in excess of £60,000 for the Indee Rose Trust, which provides support to youngsters suffering from brain and spinal tumors, thanks to such stars as Ricky Hatton, David Haye, Nathan Cleverly, Kevin Mitchell, Ricky Burns, Rendall Munroe and Billy Joe Saunders.

Eames said: "It's amazing really, I've never received an award for anything in my life. To be given an award from the British Boxing Board of Control is an honor and a privilege.


JOHNNY EAMES

To be given it in front of the people I was given it, and them standing up and applauding, was quite moving really. Obviously most importantly for me is that this has created more awareness for the Indee Rose Trust, which is what it is all about."

The Exceptional Award went to the GB Olympic boxing squad, while the Sir Henry Cooper Award for Services to Boxing was presented jointly to Jack Doughty and Bryan Hughes MBE. Hughes is responsible for bringing through several generations of fighters and transforming the lives of many through Collyhurst and Moston Boxing Club, in the heart of Manchester. He also wrote a great book on the life of Willie Pep, entitled Will O The Wisp. If you haven't read it, do so. It's a riveting read, meticulously researched.

Joint-award winner Doughty, from Oldham in Greater Manchester, has been training, managing and putting on small hall shows for boxers for a quarter of a century, having taken to the sport in his later years. But his interest stemmed from his childhood, when he was regaled at home with the stories of his uncles, Charlie and Walter Overy, who were well-known local fighters in the 1920s and '30s. His boxers have brought home world, Commonwealth and British titles. His top men have been Charles Shepherd, Bobby Vanzie, Aidy Lewis and Choi Tseveenpurev. Doughty had a career in sport himself, having played professional rugby league for Oldham in the 1950s and boxed in the Army. He was really a man for whom showtime appealed. He ran a well-known dance business with his late wife Marianne Jepson, and that spell in his life included a career performing in theatre and music halls. The trio of Hughes, Doughty and Eames are typical of boxing – stalwarts who will always give you the time of day and remain part of the lifeblood of the sport.

ADAMS 'OVERWHELMED'

"I needed an agent almost straight after the Games," Olympic boxing champion Nicola Adams has told me, revealing that the Commonwealth Games and the Olympic Games in Rio in 2016 are already on her mind. "I just couldn't cope with the demands and requests coming in from everywhere. I never envisaged having an agent." Naturally shy, it has taken time to accustom herself to being recognized everywhere she goes. She has even taken to shopping at the supermarket late at night after being mobbed there during the day. One major day since the Games was a visit to Buckingham Palace. "I was actually put at the front of the queue so I was really nervous. I'd been practicing my curtsey all week. The Queen was saying how well I'd done and Kate Middleton came through and was saying how she was screaming the place down for me in the final, which was fantastic to hear." Some accolade.

Image: AFP-Getty

Naturally shy Nicola Adams, the Olympic boxing champion, has been a bit overwhelmed by all the attention she has received.

HAGLER IMPRESSED BY WOMEN BOXERS

Image: Jeff Julian

Former middleweight champion Marvin Hagler's opinion of women's boxing changed after he watched the Olympic competition this summer in London.

It is always a privilege to share any time with Marvelous Marvin Hagler – always humble and still a bear of a man at the age of 58. That silhouette in an alleyway would be enough to scare off any man. Like a great wine, his generosity and depth mellow with age. Hagler, still based in Milan, Italy, talked to me recently about the passing of Manny Steward and the impression women's boxing had had on him during the Olympic Games. "I was very shocked and upset about Emanuel. I've known him for many years, and he followed me also through my emerging career. He was a person who believed and respected me and respected my art and skills. He may have been on the other side, but he respected my ability and was always a gentleman and a great champion.

"Emanuel had been with Tommy [Hearns] since his amateur days, but I knew him from back in my amateur days when he used to watch me, too. He'd been around boxing for so long. He'd been a great person in the boxing world, a great trainer and manager. He is going to be missed so much by everyone."

Did Manny ever play mind games with Hagler or try to get under his skin? "Managers and trainers were always playing mind games. They always have to be doing that. But I had the opportunity to meet Manny Steward earlier in the year, before he passed away, and he's always been supportive of me and always wished me the best of luck. That was the kind of man he was."

Hagler then went on to discuss the Olympic Games, and intriguingly said he was not disappointed that the American men's team failed to come home with a single medal from London. "No, I focus on the overall legacy when I look at a Games such as London. It wasn't the right time for the USA, that's all it is. ... But the woman's side of the boxing really impressed me a lot in the Olympics." Marvelous was delighted for the American gold medalist Claressa Shields.

"Yes, I did see Claressa Shields and I was very happy to watch. At the time I was in America watching all the fights, and it was exciting. The women's bouts, too. But it's a different era. The women handled themselves very well. They paid attention to the game. They were very well focused."

"I've never been excited about women's boxing in the past, but I think it changed my view. It also changed a lot of people's view around the world. I wish Claressa a lot of luck and returning with a medal is great. Looking back, the women really took the spotlight at the Olympics."

Talking of women's boxing, it reminded me of a trip I took to Casablanca with Marvelous four years ago. We joined a project in Morocco that was encouraging young girls to take up sport in that country, where they are often expected to marry young and stay at home. During that trip, we visited a sports college in the countryside just outside Casablanca, where several of us – including the double-Olympic gold medal-winning decathlete Daley Thompson – played basketball against a very competitive group of teenage girls. There was much whooping and wailing. Afterwards, I sat down with Marvelous and he turned his arms to show the fleshy part of his forearms. They had scratches and scrapes crisscrossing them. "Man, that kind of damage never even happened to me in 15 years in the ring," he grinned. "Those girls were serious out there."

Hagler, a member of the Laureus World Sports Academy, spoke to me most recently when he was in Barcelona, working with a sports project keeping kids on the right side of the tracks. "It's nice to give back. It's what I care about. I always carry myself as a man and as a champion, and I think that's the way people look at me." Hagler – always a legend.

Gareth A Davies *is boxing correspondent for* The Telegraph, *London.*

Abner Mares raised his game to another level in a convincing victory over Anselmo Moreno.
Image: Naoki Fukuda

ABNER MARES UD 12
ANSELMO MORENO

DATE: NOV. 10, 2012
SITE: STAPLES CENTER, LOS ANGELES
DIVISION: JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHT
WEIGHTS: MARES 121¾; MORENO 120¾
RING RATING (GOING INTO FIGHT): MARES NO. 4; MORENO NO. 1 BANTAMWEIGHT, NO. 10 POUND FOR POUND
NETWORK: SHOWTIME

Abner Mares proved against the likes of Yonnhy Perez, Vic Darchinyan and Joseph Agbeko that he is an elite fighter. Against master boxer Anselmo Moreno, he proved he's special.

This was the toughest assignment of Mares' young career. Moreno was on some pound-for-pound lists because of his unusual combination of quickness and defensive skills, which has made the vast majority of his opponents look foolish. A legitimate question going in was: Could Mares cope with such a will of the wisp? The answer was an emphatic, "yes."

Mares dominated the fight because he imposed his will on Moreno, who had some success sticking and moving but ultimately couldn't escape the intelligent pressure Mares brought from start to finish before a pro-Mares crowd of around 7,000.

The judges scored it 116-110, 116-110 and a ridiculous 120-106 (the score of James Jen Kin), although everyone seemed to agree the fight was one-sided. THE RING scored it 116-110 (eight rounds to four) for Mares.

"My pressure was definitely the difference," Mares said. "I felt good, I felt strong. He gave me hell. I took some great punches, but I kept him backing up. I didn't want to let a guy who has so much finesse get comfortable."

Moreno (33-2-1, 12 knockouts) is the type of fighter who hits you twice or three times and disappears before you can respond. You swing at a lot of air when you fight this confounding Panamanian.

Mares, 26, took some sharp blows and punched the air on many occasions because of the elusiveness of Moreno, who wanted nothing to do with Mares on the inside. Mares connected on only 23 percent of punches (195 of 850), according to CompuBox. Moreno landed 27 percent (192 of 708).

However, Mares (25-0-1, 13 KOs) cut off the ring with some consistency to land more than enough hard, eye-catching shots to both the body and head, the latter with a wild-looking overhand right he threw dozens of times in the fight. One of the rights put Moreno down in the fifth round.

Mares just wouldn't let Moreno do his thing.

"You know that I've fought every style out there," said Mares, who also had an outstanding amateur career. "It's just a matter of adjusting, finding the right game plan. Tonight I adjusted to Moreno's style. I saw that pressure was the key."

Said Moreno: "He just stayed on top of me. He's a great champion."

- Michael Rosenthal

Image: Naoki Fukuda
Antonio DeMarco didn't know what hit him in his eighth-round KO loss to Adrien Broner.

ADRIEN BRONER TKO 8
ANTONIO DEMARCO

DATE: NOV. 17, 2012
SITE: BOARDWALK HALL, ATLANTIC CITY, N.J.
DIVISION: LIGHTWEIGHT
WEIGHTS: BRONER 134½; DEMARCO 134½
RING RATING (GOING INTO FIGHT): BRONER UNRATED; DEMARCO NO. 1
NETWORK: HBO

You don't have to like him, but you have to respect his skills.

Adrien Broner moved up to the lightweight division to challenge for Antonio DeMarco's WBC title. And after eight one-sided rounds, Broner (25-0, 21 KOs) celebrated in a neutral corner with a crunk-style two-step as DeMarco lay vanquished on the opposite side of the ring.

Referee Benjy Esteves Jr. nodded in recognition of the white towel from DeMarco's corner, and after completing the mandatory eight count, waved the bout off at 1:49 of the eighth round.

Despite the tremendous punishment that DeMarco (28-3-1, 21 KOs) had absorbed, you couldn't fault the referee for allowing him to continue as long as he did. The tough Mexican had demonstrated impressive determination to power back against the favored Jorge Linares in October 2011, losing most of the early rounds before stopping him on cuts in the 11th.

There would be no comeback against Broner, used his vaunted speed in the first three rounds as he picked off the southpaw's lunges with check hooks and short right crosses. But as DeMarco stepped up the attack and forced Broner to stand his ground, Broner answered with a beautiful display of in-fighting in Round 5.

Still, DeMarco remained standing despite absorbing 52 punches in the fifth. And although he had a few moments of success in the sixth and seventh rounds, it was clear that DeMarco would be unable to find the answers needed to solve "The Problem."

The end came when Broner landed a damaging right hand to the body that opened up the door for a devastating left uppercut.

"His shoulder rolls and his defense were hard to penetrate," admitted DeMarco, who said afterward that he agreed with the stoppage. "But I fought my heart out, and I'll be back."

Broner was named THE RING's No.1 lightweight with the victory and sees this as just the beginning.

"I wanted to make a statement tonight and I think I did," said the native of Cincinnati, who has stopped his last five opponents. "He was definitely the toughest opponent I've fought, and he was the strongest and could take a punch. I'll fight anybody, I'm gonna be running this city and sport for a long time to come."

-Ryan Songalia

Vyacheslav Senchenko hurt Ricky Hatton with body shots even before the fight-ending blow.
Image: Scott Heavey-Getty

VYACHESLAV SENCHENKO KO 9
RICKY HATTON

DATE: NOV. 24, 2012
SITE: MANCHESTER ARENA, MANCHESTER, ENGLAND
DIVISION: WELTERWEIGHT
WEIGHTS: SENCHENKO 146; HATTON 146
RING RATING (GOING INTO FIGHT): BOTH UNRATED
NETWORK: SHOWTIME (US), PRIMETIME (UK)

Ricky Hatton got in the best shape possible and laid down the gauntlet to a quality operator in Vyacheslav Senchenko, but fell way short on fight night. The immensely popular Manchester brawler showed flashes of the old brutality that took him to three world titles in two weight classes, but he was easier to hit than ever and retired almost immediately after the bout concluded.

Senchenko (33-1, 22 knockouts) tagged Hatton (45-3, 32 KOs) with a vicious left hook to the liver area, and the former champion went down in an eye blink. The crowd initially fell silent but as the count was administered a thunderous noise echoed throughout the arena in an attempt to summon the stricken fighter to his feet. It was not to be, and referee Victor Loughlin counted Hatton out at 2:52 of the ninth round.

"If he hadn't caught me with that body shot, and I scraped home on points, then I would be telling you the same thing," said the ex-champion in regard to his second retirement in as many fights. "It just isn't there anymore, and I don't need anyone to tell me that."

Hatton surprised many experts by taking on Senchenko, a former titleholder. "The Hitman" was inactive for 42 months and in that time he battled alcohol, drugs and depression that kept him in the public eye for all the wrong reasons. A warrior at heart, his ego would not let him take a tune-up, and he paid the price for rushing things.

"When I tried to sit down on my shots, they were all ducking in the back row," Hatton said with a touch of humor before the emotion of it all kicked in. "I'm so sorry. I've got to thank everyone for coming out, but I can't keep picking my arse off the floor like that."

Hatton, as expected, was aggressive in the early going and did have his successes, but Senchenko was unimpressed with the incoming and speared the Englishman with a solid left jab and frequent power shots. "The Hitman" was fit but the Ukrainian was fighting-fit, which was clear in terms of demeanor, timing and punch resistance.

When Hatton cut Senchenko in Round 7, the tall boxer-puncher struck back instantly and hurt his man with a combination. That fire only exists in an athlete who has stayed the course and been consistent with the appropriate sacrifices. Senchenko had that in his armory when the first bell rang, and Hatton did not.

- Tom Gray

Image: Ross Rivera

Robert Guerrero (right) turned Andre Berto's face into an unrecognizable mess during his impressive victory.

ROBERT GUERRERO UD 12
ANDRE BERTO

DATE: NOV. 24, 2012
SITE: CITIZENS BUSINESS BANK ARENA, ONTARIO, CALIF.
DIVISION: WELTERWEIGHT
WEIGHTS: GUERRERO 146½; BERTO 146¾
RING RATING (GOING INTO FIGHT): GUERRERO NO. 8; BERTO UNRATED
NETWORK: HBO

The final bell rang, but Robert Guerrero didn't let up. He had badly hurt Andre Berto and wanted to close the show. He landed about five more shots on his wobbly opponent, capping the end of a breakout performance in an exciting brawl.

Guerrero proved with his unanimous-decision victory over Berto – all three judges scored it 116-110 – that he's one of the best at 147.

"I told Andre I was going to beat him down, I had to keep my word," said Guerrero, who began his career at 122 pounds. "I had to fight him on the inside and work the body. We were on the inside, and I was pushing him into position to land my punches. He didn't hurt me at all; he caught me with a few shots. He's a strong guy and punched hard, but I have a great chin."

Berto (28-2, 22 KOs) was considered the puncher entering the fight, but it was Guerrero (31-1-1, 18 KOs) who scored the knockdowns. "The Ghost" stunned Berto with an overhand left and then followed up with a series of straight lefts while he illegally held Berto's head with his right hand, dropping his foe in the first round. He dropped him a second time in the second round after he hurt Berto with a right hook, overhand left combo, followed by lefts along the ropes.

Guerrero did an excellent job fighting on the inside. He smothered Berto's shots and didn't allow the power-puncher to get full extension on his shots. Guerrero applied constant pressure, while Berto fought with his back to the ropes for most of the fight and ripped off some punishing shots, mostly uppercuts.

Berto, fighting for the first time in 14 months after suffering a torn biceps and failing a drug test, tried a Floyd Mayweather Jr.-like shoulder roll in the early rounds but it didn't work. Still, he gamely fought most of the bout with both eyes swollen shut. Around the midway point of the fight, he returned the favor and closed Guerrero's right eye after rocking his foe with a mean uppercut off the ropes. It was Guerrero, though, who dictated the pace and beat Berto to the punch, throwing 320 more shots.

With the victory, Guerrero is a bona fide contender at welterweight and among candidates to face Mayweather.

- Mike Coppinger

Image: Al Bello-Getty

This is one of the last images we'll have of former four-division titleholder Erik Morales in the ring.

RING CHAMPION DANNY GARCIA KO 4 NO. 6 ERIK MORALES

RING junior welterweight champion Danny Garcia had to work to outpoint Erik Morales in their first meeting, in March. He met little resistance from the aging Mexican in the rematch on Oct. 20 at the new Barclay's Center in Brooklyn, N.Y.

The Philadelphian iced Morales (52-9, 36 KOs) with one left hook, bringing the fight to an immediate halt at the 1:23 mark of the fourth round. Morales' cornermen jumped into the ring to stop the bout as the former four-division world titleholder's head hung precariously on the bottom rope. Garcia (25-0, 16 KOs) had controlled the fight from the beginning.

Morales, 36, said he would fight once more in hometown of Tijuana before calling it quits.

"Time passes by and these are the early signs that this is over," said Morales, a sure-fire Hall of Famer once his career is over.

Garcia, 24, wrapped up a banner year that saw him break out as a major player in the sport following a fourth-round TKO win over Amir Khan to claim the vacant junior welterweight championship in July. He was set to defend against Zab Judah on Feb. 9 as this went to press.

NO. 9 PETER QUILLIN UD 12 NO. 7 HASSAN N'DAM

Quillin (28-0, 20 KOs) won the WBO middleweight title on Oct. 20 with an impressive display of power, dropping Frenchman Hassan N'Dam six times en route to a 12-round unanimous decision on Showtime Championship Boxing from Brooklyn, N.Y. All three judges had the same tally: 115-107.

"Kid Chocolate" dropped N'Dam twice in the fourth, twice in the sixth and twice in the final round. When N'Dam wasn't on the canvas, he was outboxing Quillin and clearly won many rounds. But he carelessly got into firefights and often found himself on the wrong end of monstrous left hooks from the harder-punching Quillin.

N'Dam (27-1, 17 KOs) showed his mettle and toughness, fighting back after each knockdown and competing to win, not to survive. He hurt the New Yorker with shots toward the end of the 11th, but Quillin left no doubt who the victor would be when he floored N'Dam twice in the last 10 seconds of the action fight.

DEVON ALEXANDER UD 12 NO. 7 RANDALL BAILEY

Devon Alexander (24-1, 13 KOs) out-boxed Randall Bailey (43-8, 37 KOs) over 12 boring rounds to take

Bailey's IBF welterweight title by a unanimous decision Oct. 20 in Brooklyn, N.Y., on Showtime. The scores were 115-111, 116-110 and 117-109.

Alexander was wary of Bailey's knockout power. He held his right hand out as a measuring stick from his southpaw stance, jabbing and turning Bailey around. Alexander landed few shots of significance, winning rounds purely on activity. He threw 534 shots in the bout, more than double Bailey's output.

Bailey, 38, did manage to set a record in the bout, though not one he'll want to boast about: He broke the record for fewest connected punches in a 12-round fight tracked by CompuBox, landing just 45 shots (of 198 thrown). The previous record in the 27-year history of CompuBox was held by James "Bonecrusher" Smith, who landed just 48 shots against Mike Tyson in 1987.

Alexander was set to face Kell Brook on Jan. 19 as this went to press.

NO. 4 PAULIE MALIGNAGGI SD 12 PABLO CESAR CANO

It was a homecoming for Paulie Malignaggi, who secured the co-feature slot on Oct. 20 in his native Brooklyn, but it was hardly the night he envisioned.

Malignaggi was emotional after the bout, begrudging the fact his matchup with Pablo Cesar Cano at Barclays Center wasn't a title fight because Cano failed to make the welterweight limit. Then there was the big shot Cano landed in the 11th, which dropped Malignaggi hard in front of his friends and family. Though the fight was close on the cards, Malignaggi managed to earn the victory by split decision. One judge scored it for Cano 118-109 but he was overruled by tallies of 114-113 and 114-113 for Malignaggi.

Cano (25-2-1, 19 KOs) was the aggressor and landed the cleaner, harder shots, but Malignaggi (32-4, 7 KOs) was more active. Malignaggi, 32, threw more total punches but landed just 57 of 159 power shots to Cano's 165 of 378.

RING CHAMPION TOSHIYUKI IGARASHI MD 12 NESTOR NARVAEZ

Toshiyuki Igarashi's 112-pound title reign was almost one-and-done, but he held on to defeat stern challenger Nestor Narvaez by a majority decision Nov. 3 in his native Japan. The scores were 114-112, 113-113 and 114-112, giving Igarashi his first successful title defense of the championship he won by beating Sonny Boy Jaro in July.

Igarashi (17-1-1, 10 KOs) did well over the first eight rounds, pressing the action and working the challenger's body, and was up on all three cards 77-74 heading into the ninth. But Narvaez (19-1-2, 9 KOs) finished strongly. He began to outbox Igarashi over the last few rounds, tightening the scores on the cards, but didn't do enough to pull away. Still, Narvaez, of Argentina, enhanced his profile with his performance and figures to get another notable bout at flyweight.

NO. 1 MARCO HUCK UD 12 FIRAT ARSLAN

Marco Huck successfully defended his WBO cruiserweight title by a controversial unanimous decision over 42-year-old Firat Arslan in an entertaining brawl Nov. 3 in Germany. The scores were 115-113, 117-111 and 115-113.

Arslan (32-6-2, 21 KOs) battered his fellow German from the onset, using crisp uppercuts to do most of his damage and seemed on his way to winning the fight, but Huck (35-2-1, 25 KOs) turned the fight at the midway point when he began to beat Arslan to the punch and get the better of their brutal exchanges. Many of the rounds were hard to score, with the final two rounds fought on even terms as the fighters brawled to the finish.

While Arslan didn't get the nod, he earned a No. 9 RING rating in defeat. Huck, meanwhile, has a bevy of options at heavyweight and cruiserweight after a strong 2012 that saw him fight on even terms with Alexander Povetkin.

LUCIAN BUTE UD 12 DENIS GRACHEV

Lucian Bute got through his light heavyweight tune-up with Denis Grachev on Nov. 3, but it was anything but easy. With a rematch against Carl Froch at 168 pounds on the line, Bute struggled to win a decision in his adopted hometown of Montreal, 118-110, 116-112 and 115-113.

The fight was compelling. Grachev (12-1-1, 8 KOs) pressed the action and forced Bute to the ropes, where he landed right hands early and often. Bute (31-1, 24 KOs) was all too accommodating, as he constantly backpedaled and fought Grachev's fight.

Grachev, who made a name for himself with an upset of Ismayl Sillakh in April, had his best rounds in the fifth and eighth, when he stunned Bute with power right hands. Bute fought well over the last few rounds of the bout, closing with an excellent 12th to preserve the rematch with Froch.

ALFREDO ANGULO KO 1 RAUL CASAREZ

It was an emotional and triumphant return for exiled junior middleweight Alfredo Angulo on Nov. 10 in Los Angeles. He had spent seven months in limbo at an immigration detention center, and upon finally being released, hooked up with reigning Trainer of

the Year Virgil Hunter. Sporting a new rugged look with full beard and braids, Angulo still had the same vaunted power and needed just one round to knock out Raul Casarez on Showtime.

Angulo (21-2, 18 KOs) was fighting for the first time in more than a year since his all-action loss to James Kirkland but didn't show any rust. He threw haymakers, finally catching Casarez (19-3, 9 KOs) with a single counter left hook that rendered him senseless and forced referee Jose Cobian to immediately call the bout off at 56 seconds into the fight.

NO. 3 MIKEY GARCIA TKO 8 JONATHAN BARROS

Mikey Garcia stopped Jonathan Barros in the ninth round of a featherweight fight Nov. 10 in Las Vegas on HBO. Garcia controlled the bout, but the Argentine Barros got his attention with a big left hook in the seventh that stunned the undefeated featherweight. In the next round, Garcia turned the tables and ended matters with an even bigger left hook of his own. Barros (34-4-1, 18 KOs) beat the count but didn't want to continue, telling referee Robert Byrd "no mas." The time of the stoppage was 2:24.

Garcia (30-0, 26 KOs) was originally slated to challenge Orlando Salido for his title on the card, but Salido pulled out with a hand injury. Now, Salido and Garcia are on track for a fight early in 2013.

NO. 5 LEO SANTA CRUZ TKO 9 VICTOR ZALETA

Leo Santa Cruz continued his ascent in the sport with a dominating ninth-round stoppage of Victor Zaleta to retain his IBF bantamweight title on the Mares-Moreno card Nov. 10 in Los Angeles.

Santa Cruz (22-0-1, 13 KOs) did what he always does – overwhelm his opponent with activity. The younger brother of Jose Armando Santa Cruz averaged an astounding 93 punches thrown and 33 power shots per round, 20 more than the weight-class average, according to CompuBox.

Santa Cruz, of Lincoln Heights, Calif., dropped his Mexican opponent in the fourth, seventh and eighth rounds. Zaleta (20-3-1, 10 KOs) was absorbing a vicious one-sided beating when referee Ray Corona mercifully halted the bout at 1:42 of the ninth.

NO. 4 ERISLANDY LARA TD 9 NO. 5 VANES MARTIROSYAN

A clash of heads in the ninth round brought an end to a competitive fight between Erislandy Lara and Vanes Martirosyan on Nov. 10 in Las Vegas on HBO. The scar tissue around Martirosyan's left eye (where he has been cut three times prior) gave in once again, and referee Jay Nady was forced to stop the junior middleweight bout on the advice of the ringside physician 26 seconds into Round 9.

With the matter unsettled, it was only fitting that the bout was scored a draw with scores of 86-85 for Martirosyan, 87-84 for Lara and 86-86 even.

Lara (17-1-2, 11 KOs) boxed beautifully at times and befuddled the hard-charging Armenian with deft movement and a crisp southpaw jab, but Martirosyan won rounds based on sheer aggression.

Lara felt a sense of urgency after receiving the first cut of his career from a Martirosyan right cross in the seventh and started finding a home for his overhand left thereafter. He seemed on his way to a victory when the bout was halted.

The match was supposed to decide a No. 1 contender to the title held by Saul "Canelo" Alvarez, but with no conclusive result the WBC ordered a rematch.

RING CHAMPION WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO UD 12 MARIUSZ WACH

Rarely does RING heavyweight champion Wladimir Klitschko encounter an opponent who is taller and weighs more than he does. And even more rarely does that fighter hear the final bell. But lightly-regarded Mariusz Wach defied the odds to last the 12-round distance against the younger Klitschko, who settled for a unanimous-decision victory by scores of 120-107, 119-109 and 120-107 on Nov. 10 in Hamburg, Germany.

It was Klitschko's first fight without late, great trainer Emanuel Steward, who passed away while Klitschko was in camp. Steward's protégé, heavyweight contender Jonathan Banks, took over training duties and seemed to work well with the champ. Wach, of North Bergen, N.J., had his moments, including a fifth round in which he rocked the champion. But from there on it was all Klitschko, who dished out a frightful beating. Wach (27-1, 15 KOs) showed courage in defeat, surprising people he could last 12 rounds. With no worthy challengers to face, it's unclear where Klitschko (59-3, 50 KOs) goes from here.

NO. 2 BRIAN VILORIA TKO 10 NO. 1 HERNAN MARQUEZ

Brian Viloria staked his claim to being one of the best pound-for-pound fighters in the world with an exciting 10th-round stoppage of Hernan Marquez on Nov. 17 in Los Angeles.

Viloria finished the bout with a monstrous left hook that drilled "Tyson" to the canvas – the third of three knockdowns – and hurt him badly, prompting trainer Robert Garcia to wave the white towel. The time of the stoppage was 1:01. The victory gave Viloria both the WBO and WBA flyweight straps.

Image: Big Joe Miranda

Brian Viloria gave fans a scintillating knockout of Hernan Marquez in Los Angeles.

Viloria (32-3, 19 KOs) got off to a great start with a knockdown in the first round, but Marquez (34-3, 25 KOs) wasn't badly hurt and continued with the pressure he'd been applying since the opening bell. In a candidate for round of the year, the 112-pounders traded knockdowns in an explosive fifth. Viloria went down hard from a Marquez right hook and then the Mexican pounced, unleashing shots on his unresponsive prey. It seemed as if referee David Mendoza was thinking about stopping the fight, but then Marquez punched himself out and Viloria capitalized, turning the tables with a hellacious counter left hook to floor his foe.

NO. 1 CARL FROCH KO 3 YUSAF MACK

Carl Froch made quick work of Yusaf Mack, dropping him for the count of 10 with a vicious left hook to the liver in the third round to retain his IBF super middleweight title Nov. 17 in his hometown of Nottingham, England. Mack went down on all fours, wincing in pain, and was counted out by referee Phil Edwards at 2:30.

Froch (30-2, 22 KOs) dominated Mack (31-5-2, 17 knockouts) from the opening bell, dropping him with a nasty left hook in the first round and then staggering him again moments later. He once again wobbled the Philadelphian before finishing the bout in the third.

It was Mack's first bout at 168 pounds in more than five years. With the win, the road is paved for a rematch between Froch and Lucian Bute, whom Froch knocked out in May.

JOHNATHON BANKS KO 2 SETH MITCHELL

Jonathan Banks, a disciple of Emanuel Steward, stunned heavyweight prospect Seth Mitchell by stopping the former football player in the second round Nov. 17 in Atlantic City, N.J.

Banks hurt Mitchell with a left and then put him down with a right in the second round. A dazed Mitchell was able to get up but was knocked down twice more, prompting referee Eddie Cotton to stop the bout at 2:37.

Banks (29-1-1, 19 KOs) trained RING heavyweight champion Wladimir Klitschko for his win over Mariuz Wach just a week earlier, making the upset win even more impressive. The favored Mitchell (25-1-1, 19 KOs) was on a fast track, but with the major setback it remains to be seen if he is a serious player in the heavyweight division.

HEAVYWEIGHTS

WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO W 12 MARIUSZ WACH
ROBERT HELENIUS W 10 SHERMAN WILLIAMS
JASON ESTRADA KO 5 GALEN BROWN
LUIS ORTIZ KO 4 SANTIAGO DE PAULA
FRANCESCO PIANETA KO 1 NELSON DOMINGUEZ
JOHNATHON BANKS KO 2 SETH MITCHELL

CRUISERWEIGHTS

SEAN CORBIN W 12 WAYNE BRAITHWAITE
DMYTRO KUCHER KO 2 STEVE HERELIUS
MARCO HUCK W 12 FIRAT ARSLAN
RAKHIM CHAKHKIEV W 10 ANDRES TAYLOR
THABISO MCHUNU KO 5 DANIE VENTER
IAGO KILADZE W 12 ISMAIL ABDOUL
VINCENZO ROSSITTO W 12 IVICA BACURIN
KRZYSZTOF GLOWACKI KO 11 MATTY ASKIN
DANNY GREEN W 12 SHANE CAMERON

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

SEAN MONAGHAN W 10 RAYCO SAUNDERS
LUCIAN BUTE W 12 DENIS GRACHEV
ALLAN GREEN KO 7 RENAN ST. JUSTE
DUSTIN DIRKS W 12 CLEITON CONCEICAO
OVILL MCKENZIE KO 2 ENZO MACCARINELLI
NATHAN CLEVERLY KO 8 SHAWN HAWK
ROBIN KRASNIQI KO 3 MAX HEYMAN
ANDRZEJ FONFARA KO 7 TOMMY KARPENCY
TONY BELLEW W 12 ROBERTO BOLONTI
ANATOLIY DUDCHENKO KO 7 TYRELL HENDRIX

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS

ALEXANDER BRAND W 12 WILLIAM GARE
KENNY ANDERSON KO 5 ROBIN REID
BEN MCCULLOCH KO 9 LES PIPER
MAXIM VLASOV W 10 KHOREN GEVOR
THOMAS OOSTHUIZEN W 12 FULGENCIO ZUNIGA
STANYSLAV KASHTANOV W 12 SERVER YEMURLAYEV
MARCO ANTONIO PERIBAN W 10 FRANCISCO SIERRA
CARL FROCH KO 3 YUSAF MACK
UENSAL ARIK KO 6 VASILE DRAGOMIR
CHRISTOPHER REBRASSE KO 7 ANDREA DI LUISA

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

PETER QUILLIN W 12 HASSAN N'DAM
DANIEL JACOBS KO 1 JOSH LUTERAN
HAMID RAHIMI KO 7 SAID MBELWA
FERNANDO GUERRERO KO 6 JUAN CARLOS CANDELO
PREDRAG RADOSEVIC TD 9 VIRGILIJUS STAPULIONIS
PATRICK NIELSEN W 10 JAMEL BAKHI
GILBERTO SANCHEZ W 10 MARCUS UPSHAW
MARTIN MURRAY KO 6 JORGE NAVARRO

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS

JAVIER FRANCISCO MACIEL KO 4 ANDERSON CLAYTON
ALFREDO ANGULO KO 1 RAUL CASAREZ
VANES MARTIROSYAN D 12 ERISLANDY LARA
DEMETRIUS HOPKINS KO 5 JOSHUA SNYDER
SERGEY RABCHENKO W 12 CEDRIC VITU
JERMELL CHARLO W 10 DASHON JOHNSON
KEITH THURMAN KO 4 CARLOS QUINTANA

WELTERWEIGHTS

JORGE PAEZ JR. W 10 CHARLIE NAVARRO
KELL BROOK KO 3 HECTOR SALDIVIA
PAUL MALIGNAGGI W 12 PABLO CESAR CANO
DEVON ALEXANDER W 12 RANDALL BAILEY
SADAM ALI KO 2 RONNIE WARRIOR JR.
LUIS CARLOS ABREGU KO 7 THOMAS DULORME
FRANKIE GAVIN W 12 JUNIOR WITTER
VITALIY DEMYANENKO W 10 DAMIAN FRIAS
FRANKIE GOMEZ KO 3 MANUEL LEYVA
RAFAL JACKIEWICZ D 10 RICK GODDING
GIANLUCA BRANCO W 12 KRZYSZTOF BIENIAS
HUMBERTO SOTO W 12 JOSE LOPEZ
(F) TIFFANY JUNOT W 10 MIA ST. JOHN
AKINORI WATANABE W 12 PRAWET SINGWANCHA
ANTON NOVIKOV W 12 KARLO TABAGHUA
ASLANBEK KOZAEV TD 9 BEHZOD NABIEV
VYACHESLAV SENCHENKO KO 9 RICKY HATTON
ROBERT GUERRERO W 12 ANDRE BERTO

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS

VICENTE MOSQUERA KO 5 DANIEL ATTAH
JASON PAGARA KO 1 MIGUEL ANTOINE
(F) LISA NOEL GARLAND W 10 KERRI HILL
DANNY GARCIA KO 4 ERIK MORALES
DIERRY JEAN KO 11 IVAN CANO
ROBERTO ORTIZ W 12 JHEAN CARLO ROMERO
VIKTOR POSTOL W 12 DEMARCUS CORLEY
KARIM MAYFIELD W 10 MAURICIO HERRERA
SHINYA IWABUCHI KO 7 SHINYA NAGASE
ANTONIO OROZCO KO 6 DANNY ESCOBAR
ALBERTO MOSQUERA W 10 FIDEL MUNOZ

LIGHTWEIGHTS

(F) ENIS PACHECO D 10 ANA LAURA ESTECHE
TAKASHI MIURA KO 1 RYUJI MIGAKI
JORGE ROMERO KO 5 JUAN PABLO SANCHEZ
MIGUEL VAZQUEZ W 12 MARVIN QUINTERO

(F) CECILIA COMUNALES W 10 SIMONE DA SILVA DUARTE
JAMIE KAVANAGH W 8 RAMON VALADEZ
YOSHITAKA KATO KO 5 SHOJI KAWASE
EMMANUEL TAGOE W 12 GEORGE ASHIE
(F) ERICA ANABELLA FARIAS W 10 VICTORIA BUSTOS
ADRIEN BRONER KO 8 ANTONIO DEMARCO
TERENCE CRAWFORD KO 8 SIDNEY SIQUEIRA
KRUNGTHEPTHONBURI
ALEJANDRO SANABRIA W 10 NERY SAGUILAN
DANIEL ESTRADA TD 10 NIHITO ARAKAWA
PETR PETROV KO 6 MIKHEIL AVAKIAN

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS

DEVIS BOSCHIERO W 12 ANTONIO DE VITIS
GAMALIEL DIAZ W 12 TAKAHIRO AO
SERGIO THOMPSON KO 5 LUIS ARMANDO JUAREZ
ROCKY JUAREZ KO 8 ANTONIO ESCALANTE
FERNANDO SAUCEDO KO 7 CRISTIAN PALMA
MIGUEL BERCHELT KO 2 OLIVER FLORES
WILL TOMLINSON W 12 IRVING BERRY
GARY BUCKLAND KO 8 STEPHEN FOSTER

FEATHERWEIGHTS

ORLANDO CRUZ W 12 JORGE PAZOS
REY BAUTISTA W 12 DANIEL RUIZ
CRISTIAN MIJARES KO 9 RAFAEL MARQUEZ
CHRIS JOHN W 12 CHONLATARN PIRIYAPINYO
DAUD YORDAN W 12 CHOI TSEVEENPUREV
GARY RUSSELL JR. KO 3 ROBERTO CASTANEDA
ANDREAS EVENSEN W 10 PHILIPPE FRENOIS
OLEG YEFIMOVYCH KO 10 FRANKLIN TERAN
MIKEY GARCIA KO 8 JONATHAN BARROS
AKIFUMI SHIMODA KO 9 HUGO PARTIDA
ANDRES GUTIERREZ KO 4 HUGO BERRIO

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS

MASAAKI SERIE W 8 SHOKEN HORAHIRA
RYOSUKE IWASA W 10 DAVID DE LA MORA
TOMOKI KAMEDA KO 5 JAVIER FRANCO
ALEJANDRO LOPEZ W 12 TAKALANI NDLOVU
ABNER MARES W 12 ANSELMO MORENO
JESSE MAGDALENO KO 1 JOSE SILVEIRA
DRIAN FRANCISCO KO 5 JAVIER GALLO
FERNANDO MONTIEL W 12 GIOVANNI CARO
SCOTT QUIGG KO 6 RENDALL MUNROE

BANTAMWEIGHTS

PUNGLUANG SOR SINGYU KO 9 AJ BANAL
JAMIE MCDONNELL KO 8 DARWIN ZAMORA
ROBERTO VASQUEZ D 12 JOHN APOLINARIO
RODRIGO GUERRERO KO 8 SEBASTIEN GAUTHIER
SHINSUKE YAMANAKA KO 7 TOMAS ROJAS
(F) YAZMIN RIVAS W 10 MAYERLIN RIVAS
LEO SANTA CRUZ KO 9 VICTOR ZALETA
ALBERT PAGARA KO 2 TAWANRUNG EAUSAMPAN
STUART HALL W 12 JOSH WALE
JULIO CEJA KO 6 LUIS MELENDEZ
RANDY CABALLERO KO 3 RIGOBERTO CASILLAS

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS

OMAR NARVAEZ KO 11 JOHNNY GARCIA
(F) CAROLINA DUER W 10 MARISA PORTILLO
PETCH SOR CHITPATTANA KO 5 JEFFREY CERNA
PAUL BUTLER KO 1 JOHN DONNELLY
GIDEON BUTHELEZI W 12 EDRIN DAPUDONG
(F) NAOKO YAMAGUCHI W 10 JUDITH RODRIGUEZ
OLEYDONG SITHSAMERCHAI W 12 HIROYUKI HISATAKA
DENKAOSAN KAOVICHIT KO 3 RODEL TEJARES
TEIRU KINOSHITA W 10 KENJI OBA
(F) DEBORA DIONICIUS W 10 MICHELLE PRESTON
CARLOS CUADRAS W 12 FERNANDO LUMACAD
FELIPE ORUCUTA KO 1 MANUEL DE LOS REYES HERRERA
(F) ZULINA MUNOZ W 10 MARIBEL RAMIREZ

FLYWEIGHTS

JUNIOR GRANADOS KO 8 JOSE CEN TORRES
RUSALEE SAMOR W 12 NOLI MORALES
(F) MELISSA MCMORROW KO 9 YAHAIRA MARTINEZ
SILVIO OLTEANU W 12 ANDREA SARRITZU
(F) RENATA SZEBELEDI KO 3 SIMONA GALASSI
EDGAR SOSA W 10 MYUNG HO LEE
TAKUYA KOGAWA KO 9 KEITA YAMAGUCHI
REY MIGRENO KO 3 PONGSAKLEK WONJONGKAM
TOSHIYUKI IGARASHI W 12 NESTOR NARVAES
ULISES SOLIS KO 7 JESUS IRIBE
JUAN CARLOS REVECO W 12 JULIAN RIVERA
BRIAN VILORIA KO 10 HERNAN MARQUEZ
LUIS CONCEPCION W 10 PABLO CARRILLO
JAYMART TOYCO KO 3 KAENPETCH SITHPOOPETCH

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS

LUIS ALBERTO RIOS KO 11 FELIPE SALGUERO
(F) ESMERALDA MORENO W 10 MARICELA QUINTERO
NETHRA SASIPRAPA KO 2 BIMBO NACIONALES
YODMONGKOL VOR SAENGTHEP KO 6 SAMMY HAGLER
TOMMY SERAN W 12 FERNANDO OCON
GANIGAN LOPEZ W 12 LUIS CEJA
DONNIE NIETES KO 5 DANAI MEENDAENG
ROMAN GONZALEZ W 12 JUAN FRANCISCO ESTRADA

STRAWWEIGHTS

JUAN HERNANDEZ KO 4 ANGEL REZAGO
(F) NAOKO FUJIOKA W 10 VICTORIA ARGUETA
XIONG ZHAO ZHONG W 12 JAVIER RESENDIZ

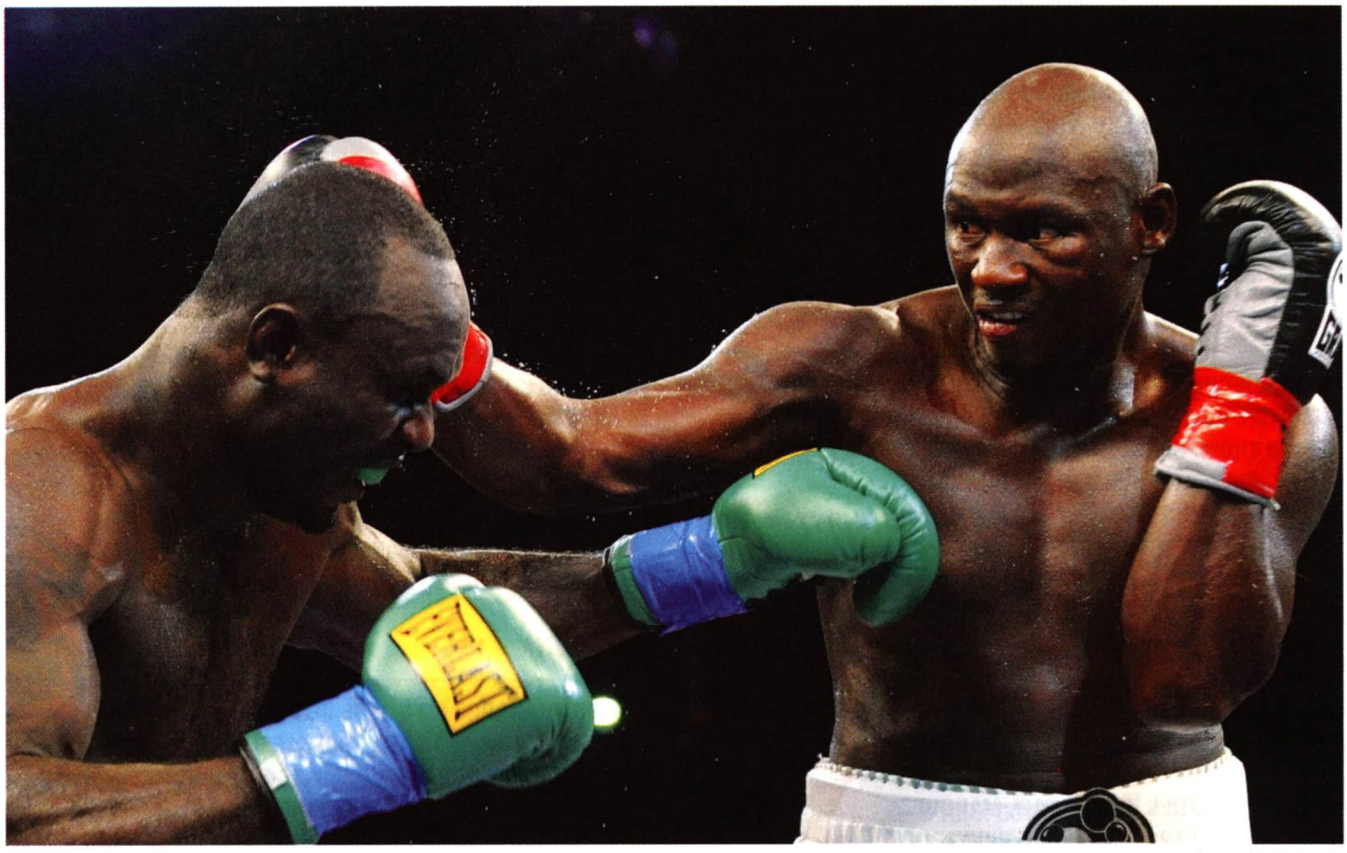


Image: Naoki Fukuda

The steroid for which Antonio Tarver (right) tested positive after he fought Lateef Kayode aids in weight loss and muscle development.

HOW PEDS BENEFIT BOXERS

By: **T.K. Stewart**

The bad news seems to never end when it comes to athletes and their usage of steroids and other performance enhancing drugs. While high-profile cases involving household names such as Barry Bonds, Lance Armstrong and Roger Clemens dominate the headlines, the pharmaceutical exploits of elite boxers are becoming more and more common.

Within the past year Andre Berto, Lamont Peterson, Antonio Tarver, Erik Morales and others have all had positive test results for performance-enhancing drugs. The interesting aspect regarding these four cases is that each fighter's test result revealed a different PED. With so many designer drugs available, they can be chosen to yield very specific results based on need. With that in mind, The Ring consulted with three of the foremost experts on the subject to determine what benefit each fighter may have derived from the particular substance found in his system.

ANDRE BERTO

Tested positive in a random pre-fight drug test for a substance called nandrolone, more commonly known as Deca-Durabolin, which is an injectable steroid that has few of the negative side effects commonly associated with steroid use. Long a favorite among bodybuilders, "Deca," as it is known on the street, is excellent for developing size and strength. Anecdotal evidence from some athletes has also suggested that sore joints and tendons are miraculously pain-free when they take the drug. Deca improves nitrogen retention within the body and decreases recuperation time between workouts, which would allow a fighter utilizing the drug to train more often, more intensely and for longer durations. However, according to Harvard professor Dr. Harrison Pope, "Nandrolone has resulted in more positive tests than any other steroid primarily because so many athletes use it, and because it remains in the system at a detectable level for 12 to 18 months."

LAMONT PETERSON

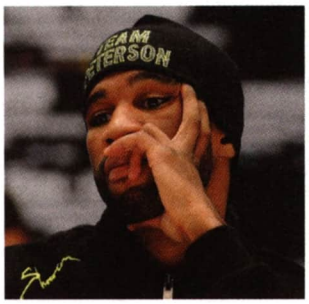


Image: Patrick McDermott-Getty

LAMONT PETERSON

Tested positive in a pre-fight drug test for synthetic testosterone that was prescribed to him by his physician. Peterson contends that he was given the treatment due to abnormally low testosterone levels and was unaware that what he was doing was in violation of anti-doping rules. Peterson had a testosterone pellet inserted into his hip before he faced Amir Khan and is adamant it did not affect his performance in that grueling bout. However, Dr. Gary Wadler, chairman of the Prohibited List and Methods Committee of the World Anti-Doping Agency says that "synthetic testosterone can increase muscle strength and mass, shorten recovery time from vigorous exercise and keep muscle tissue from breaking down when pushed to the extreme." Also, what makes synthetic testosterone very appealing to boxers, according to PED guru Victor Conte, is that it vanishes from the body within six to eight hours. And if used in sufficiently small doses, it may not elevate testosterone levels enough to trigger further testing.

ANTONIO TARVER

Tested positive in a post-fight drug test for the injectable steroid drostanalone, otherwise known as Masteron. It is a steroid that can be highly valued as a component of a pre-fight drug regimen because it aids in weight loss and muscle development. It disappears quickly in the body, so frequent injections are required, but this also makes it attractive for tested athletes – as long as the injections are discontinued 10 to 14 days prior to a drug test. According to Dr. Wadler, the "advantage of Masteron is its strong androgenic, or muscle building, component. It can cause a noticeable improvement in muscle density if a person has a low body fat percentage. The unique chemistry of the drug also makes it an effective fat loss agent. The androgenic effect is crucial because it can increase aggression which often helps to provide sufficient motivation for intense training when an athlete has lowered his caloric intake in advance of a bout."

ERIK MORALES

Tested positive for clenbuterol, which is not a steroid but a treatment for asthma usually taken orally. Clenbuterol has been shown to increase muscle mass and decrease fat in animals, which is why it was once an attractive supplement to administer to beef cows. Because of physiological differences, Clenbuterol is not an effective muscle builder in humans, but it is effective as a thermogenic or fat-burning agent. That's why it has been utilized by boxers attempting to shed weight. Clenbuterol works by slightly increasing body temperature and basal metabolic rate, which helps to burn stored body fat. It has also been said to reduce appetite, which coupled with fat loss makes it attractive to boxers struggling with weight issues. Clenbuterol also can have negative side effects, ranging from insomnia to an enlarged heart. Perhaps Dr. Wadler sums it up best when it comes to the use of this particular PED: "There is no free ride, and there is a price to be paid."

Image: Jam Media-CON-Getty

Ana Maria Torres (left) and Jackie Nava engaged in two entertaining fights in 2011. A third meeting would be compelling.

5 FIGHTS WE WANT TO SEE

By: **Ryan Songalia**

The formula for a good year in boxing is simple: Have the best fight the best. Women's boxing had a good year in 2012, as many top stars risked their standing in the sport by fighting the fights that the people wanted them to fight. You would have had to wait for many of them to be uploaded to YouTube if you were in America, but the fights that took place in 2012 created clarity, drew large crowds as headlining bouts and set precedents for future action in the sport.

With consultation from women's boxing experts Sue "TL" Fox, Ryan Maquinana, Mark Jones and Ryan Bivins, plus former WBC women's featherweight titleholder Maureen Shea, THE RING has put together a list of five fights that would help continue to propel the sport forward in 2013.

CECILIA BRAEKHUS (21-0, 5 KOS) VS. HOLLY HOLM (31-2-3, 9 KOS)

A clash between welterweight stars Braekhus and Holm would be the biggest fight in women's boxing. Both are 31, hold every conceivable 147-pound belt between them, and have defeated virtually every challenger aside from each other. In many ways, a clash between the Norwegian Braekhus and Albuquerque, N.M., franchise Holm would be the Pacquiao-Mayweather of women's boxing, a match

A showdown between Cecilia Braekhus (left, fighting Amy Yuratovac) and Holly Holm would be the biggest possible fight in women's boxing.
Image: AFP-Getty

that would crown the clear-cut best. The time is now; Holm is riding high after avenging her knockout defeat to Anne Sophie Mathis, while Braekhus, not to be upstaged, did the same shortly thereafter.

Comment: "The Holm-Braekhus fight is probably considered one of the top matches in women's boxing that boxing fans want to see at this time," Fox said. "It now comes down to who is the best in that weight class. Holm vs. Braekhus is a must to make that decision."

AVA KNIGHT (10-1-3, 5 KOS) VS. MELISSA McMORROW (8-3-3, 1 KO)

The flyweight division is probably the deepest in all of women's boxing, and these are the two left standing in it. Knight, the IBF's title claimant, invaded Mexico to take a decision over WBC titleholder Mariana Juarez, while McMorrow traveled to Germany to pull off the upset of the year, defeating long-time WBO titleholder Susi Kentikian. It won't be too hard for these women to find each other; they both live in Northern California's Bay Area. A showdown at The Oracle would be just the homecoming these road warriors deserve.

Comment: "Knight and McMorrow have cleaned out the flyweight division, even going as far as to travel to Mexico and Germany, respectively, to accomplish that," said Maquinana. "Both fighters are from the same region, and they've both expressed interest in making it happen."

YESICA BOPP (22-0, 10 KOS) VS. ESMERALDA MORENO (25-6, 9 KOS)

The Argentine Bopp is the undisputed class of the 108-pound division and one of the most active champions in the sport, regardless of gender, having defended her belts 13 times over the last four years. Her problem has been one that plagues the lighter weights of men's boxing – lack of competition. The lone junior flyweight who figures to be a challenge to her is Moreno, the battle-tested WBC titleholder from Mexico, who has been unbeaten since dropping down to 108. She's rangier than the diminutive Bopp, though Bopp would figure to have a speed and power advantage.

Image: Stuart Franklin-Bongarts-Getty
Esmeralda Moreno is one of the few fighters who might be able to give Yesica Bopp a challenge.

Comment: "That's a solid fight," Bivins said. "I have

to favor Bopp though, she's just much more fluid and refined. What's interesting is this would still be the best opponent Bopp had ever faced and I can't say the same for Moreno."

JACKIE NAVA (28-4-3, 12 KOS) VS. ANA MARIA TORRES (28-3-3, 16 KOS) III

Their first two fights in 2011 resulted in a draw and a decision victory for Torres in a classic. The rivalry between these two Mexican warriors has been described as the female Barrera-Morales, with Torres hailing from Mexico City (same as Barrera) and Nava from Tijuana (Morales). The fight would've been a natural for 2012, but both took time off due to pregnancy. A third meeting between the two most popular female boxers in their nation would be another thriller, plus a celebration of two determined mothers. And why not? All great rivalries deserve a third (or fourth) go-around.

Comment: "These are two great athletes who stylistically make for great fights," Shea said. "As seen in the previous fights, these two women show heart and desire to win at all costs."

YESICA MARCOS (21-0-1, 7 KOS) VS. MARCELA ACUNA (37-5, 17 KOS)

When former unified junior featherweight titleholder Acuna retired to pursue politics in 2010, fellow Argentine Marcos picked up the ball to become their country's biggest female draw. Marcos won the WBO belt with a decision victory over Ana Julaton in front of 27,000 fans in Argentina. Just two months later, Acuna emerged from retirement and has won two straight. As both routinely draw 10,000-plus, a clash between the two aggressive brawlers could break boxing attendance records in their country.

Comment: "This matchup pits the old lion against the young lion," Jones said. "... Marcos is coming into her prime at the age of 26. ... Does Marcela Eliana Acuna have enough left in her 36-year-old legs to hold off her aggressive opponent?"

ALSO: Katie Taylor, who won the lightweight gold medal in women's boxing at the 2012 Olympics, announced she will defend her title in 2016. The 26-year-old Irishwoman cited the uncertainty of the pro ranks in making her decision to remain amateur. "The thing with professional boxing is you have to have the right promoter and the right fights," Taylor told Irish radio station Today FM. "It is a cut-throat business and you're not guaranteed to get the best fights." ... Rola El-Halabi (11-0, 6 KOs) will be making the comeback of a lifetime on Jan. 12 when the unbeaten lightweight returns to the ring against Lucia Morelli (17-3, 8 KOs) in Germany. El-Halabi hasn't fought since June of 2010 after her stepfather/manager shot her in the hand, knee and feet after the dissolution of their managerial relationship. The 27-year-old El-Halabi is a native of Lebanon who now lives in Germany and holds a knockout victory over Mia St. John.

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"Boxers must be part of the equation."

— BOC Member José Chegüi Torres

KO KINGS: This fight between Carlos Zarate (left) and Alfonso Zamora might've featured the highest combined knockout ratio in the history of big-time boxing. The Mexicans had a combined record of 74-0, with 73 knockouts, going into the fight. And, of course, the fight didn't go the distance. Zarate (45-0, 44 KOs) stopped Zamora (29-0, 29 KOs) at 1:11 of the fourth round. The fight took place on April 23, 1977, at the old Forum in Inglewood, Calif.

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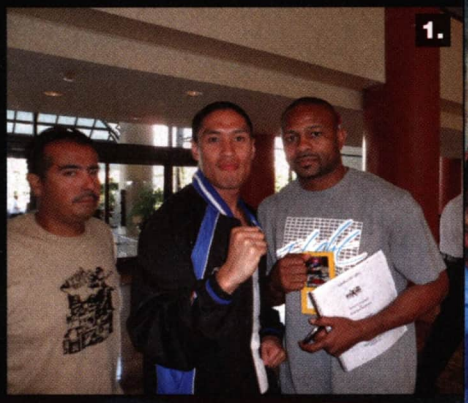
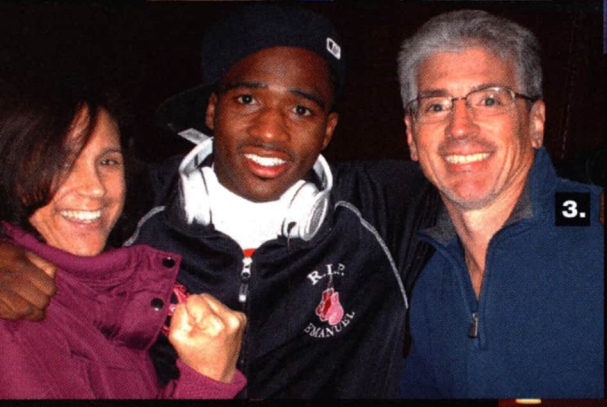
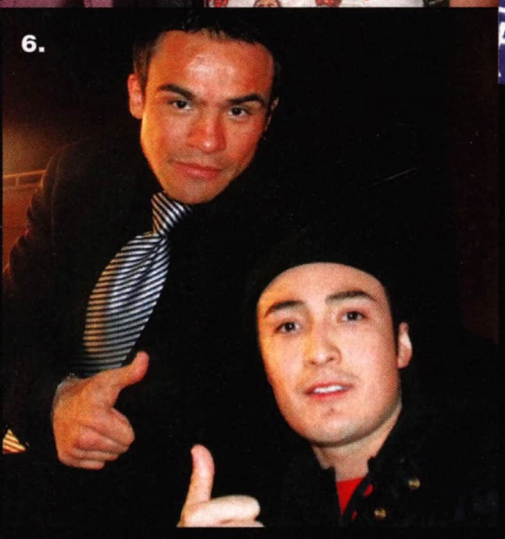




1. Christian De Guia (center) with Roy Jones Jr. at the Nonito Donaire-Toshiaki Nishioka weigh-in in Manhattan Beach, Calif. 2. Mario Casuga with the late Emanuel Steward at Wladimir Klitschko's training camp in West Palm Beach, Fla. 3. Karina and Mark McCloud with Adrien Broner at the Broner-Antonio DeMarco weigh-in in Atlantic City, N.J. 4. Shawn Media with Sergio Martinez at the 2011 BWAA Awards Dinner in Las Vegas. 5. Jamal Wynn (right) with Robert Guerrero at the Andre Ward-Chad Dawson weigh-in in Oakland, Calif. 6. Manuel Garnica III (right) with Juan Manuel Marquez at the Miguel Cotto-Antonio Margarito weigh-in at Madison Square Garden in New York.



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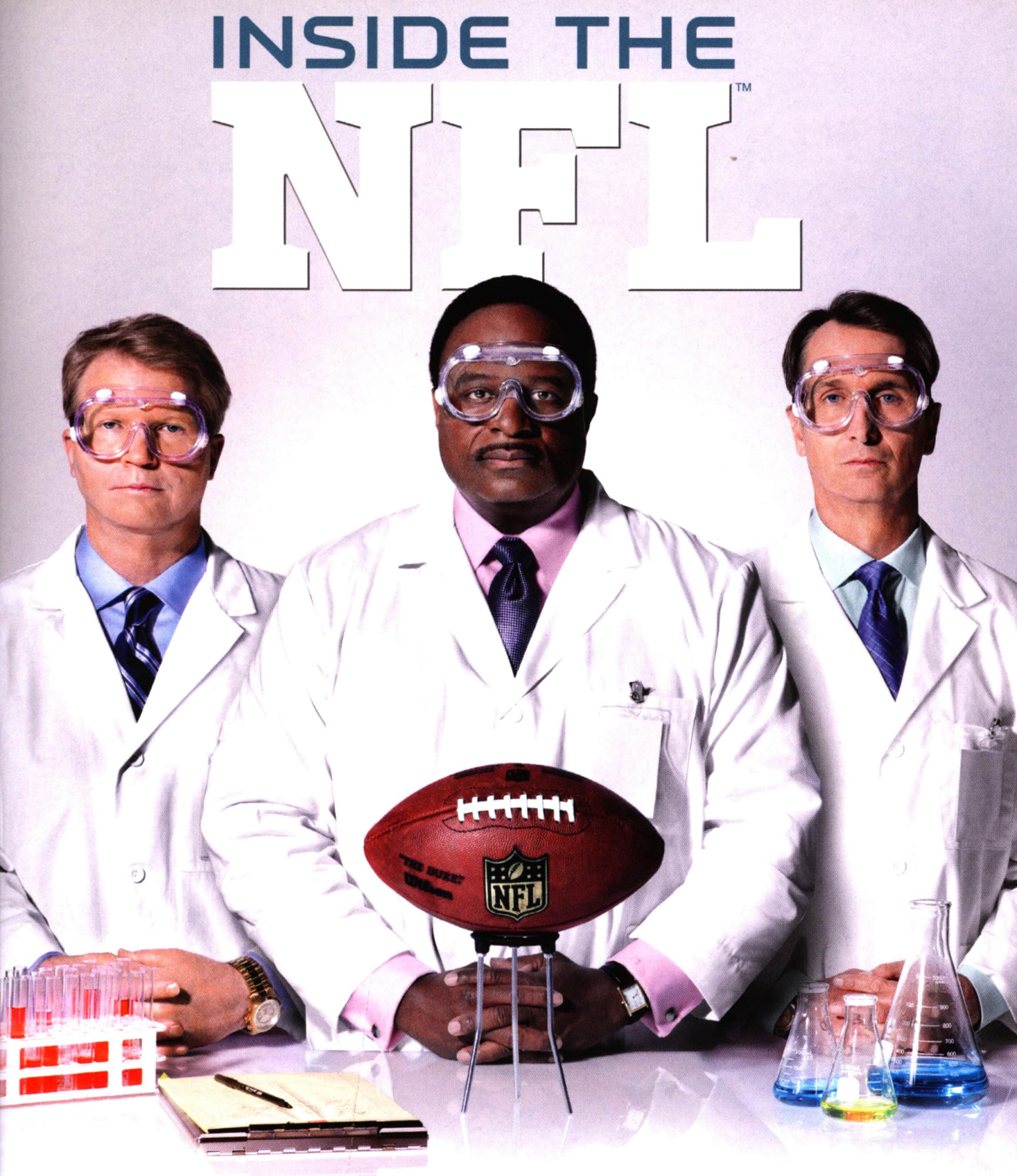

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